



Bomb cyclone storm hammering central U.S., disrupting travel

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON**
Associated Press

Blizzard warnings were posted from Colorado to Minnesota on Wednesday and wildfires were a concern in New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma as the second so-called "bomb cyclone" storm in less than a month hit the central U.S., raising the prospect of renewed flooding in the already drenched Midwest. Heavy snow began disrupting ground and air travel Wednesday afternoon. Roads became impassable and visibility was down to a few feet in northeastern South Dakota due to snowfall of up to 11 inches. About half of the daily flights at Denver International Airport were canceled. Up to 2 ½ feet (0.61 meters) of snow was expected to fall in parts of eastern South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota, the National Weather Service

said. Winds in excess of 50 mph (80.46 kph) also were expected, creating life-threatening conditions. "We're calling it historic because of the widespread heavy snow. We will set some records," said Mike Connelly, a weather service meteorologist in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Transportation officials closed Interstate 29 from east central South Dakota to the North Dakota border and said other stretches of major interstates were likely to close as conditions deteriorated. Numerous traffic crashes were reported in northeastern South Dakota. Transportation officials in Colorado said highway closures also were likely there. In Nebraska, the State Patrol was sending additional troopers into the state's panhandle, and officials closed Interstate 80 in that region. "This storm is going to be



Ice forms on a calf at a ranch outside of Kilgore, Neb., Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

Associated Press

dangerous," Patrol Maj. Russ Stanczyk said. An unusual but not rare weather phenomenon known as "thunder snow" — snow accompanied by thunder and lightning — was reported in central South Dakota.

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Ribbon cutting a last act for ousted Trump DHS officials

By COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Kirstjen Nielsen and other longtime civil servants stood outside the Department of Homeland Security's new headquarters Wednesday in the breezy sunshine — a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a building they'd never work in.

Nielsen, homeland security secretary for a few more hours, stood smiling next to her replacement. Both held giant gold scissors, and on a count of three, they sliced through the blue ribbon together.

If there were bad feelings or awkwardness, they weren't on display. The event felt more like a graduation than the bloodbath orchestrated by the White House this week to axe the agency's leadership.

Nielsen, for her part, seemed relaxed as she stepped to the podium to address her employees one last time. She spoke of their accomplishments together, and cracked a joke about how construction took so long she almost didn't see the new head-

quarters, erected at the site of an old federal psychiatric hospital.

"But I just made it," she said. Nielsen resigned Sunday, ending a tumultuous tenure at the helm of a sprawling department of 240,000 people responsible for border security, disaster relief, cyber security, counterterrorism and other missions. She finally had enough after the most recent tangle with President Donald Trump and his aides over the increase of Central American migrants crossing the Southern border,



Outgoing Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, front center left, cuts a ribbon accompanied by outgoing acting deputy secretary Claire Grady, front center right, Incoming Acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan, front left, and Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration David Pekoske, front right at the dedication ceremony at the Homeland Security headquarters Center Building at the old St. Elizabeths Hospital, Wednesday, April 10, 2019, in Washington. Associated Press

and Trump's growing frustration.

The resignation was fueled partly because Trump had suddenly withdrawn the nomination of Immigration and Customs Enforcement leader Ron Vitiello without telling anyone, and wanted to shake up leadership, people familiar with the matter said. The people weren't authorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Vitiello was there Wednesday, sitting on the end of the front row of white folding chairs, shortly after sending a letter to his employees saying his last day at ICE was Friday, capping more than three decades of border work.

Nielsen was introduced

at the podium by Claire Grady, acting deputy secretary and civil servant of more than 28 years. She was next in line to become secretary but had been forced to resign when Trump decided to name Kevin McAleenan, the head of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, as acting secretary. Both women got standing ovations. Both were leaving after Wednesday.

McAleenan, sat on the other side of the row of folding chairs, next to Transportation Security Administration head David Pekoske, who was taking Grady's place. Outgoing Secret Service Director Randolph "Tex" Alles, ousted by Trump for personal reasons, sat there too. □




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Continued from Front

"It's essentially a thunderstorm, but it's cold enough for snow," Connelly said. South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem closed state government offices in 52 counties. Numerous schools around the state closed, along with several Black Hills National Forest offices in western South Dakota and eastern Wyoming.

Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts extended five weather-related executive orders until May 15 to help communities gain fast access to the state's emergency resources. Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz said "the National Guard stands ready" to rescue any stranded motorists. The weather service posted an ice storm warning into Friday morning for a portion of southern Minnesota, saying up to three-fourths of an inch of ice could accumulate on power lines, leading to outages.

To the west, the looming spring blizzard in the Rockies was impacting flights, school classes, government functions and even baseball.

Major League Baseball's Colorado Rockies postponed an afternoon game against the Atlanta Braves until August. Many school districts in Colorado and Wyoming canceled or shortened classes. Local governments, including in Denver and Cheyenne, Wyoming, and state government in the Denver area closed offices early.

Strong winds associated with the weather system were creating dangerous

wildfire and travel conditions in New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma. The weather service issued a high wind warning for the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles. Winds in excess of 50 mph (80.46 kph) were combining with low humidity and an unstable atmosphere to create critical fire conditions in the three states. Forecasters in New Mexico said the winds also would make travel difficult on north-south oriented roads such as Interstate 25. In southern New Mexico, the U.S. Army's White Sands Missile Range closed Wednesday because of the high winds. The storm technically met the scientific definition of what's commonly known as a "bomb cyclone," said David Roth, a forecaster at the National Weather Service's Weather Prediction Center in Maryland.

The weather phenomenon with a complex scientific definition essentially entails a rapid drop in air pressure and a storm strengthening explosively. What is more important than the term is the storm's impacts, which are likely to be similar to last month's storm, Roth said. That blast dropped heavy snow and led to massive flooding in the Midwest that caused billions of dollars in damage in Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa and South Dakota. "Hopefully this time it will be a slow snowmelt," Roth said.

Forecasters said this week's storm will swell rivers again, though likely not to the levels seen last month due to the absence of a wet snow-

pack on frozen ground this time around.

Even moderate rises in the Missouri River will push more water into drenched Fremont County in southwestern Iowa, Emergency Manager Mike Crecelius said. Last month's flooding swamped 455 houses and thousands of acres of farmland in his region.

"The problem is that we're not getting any time for the water to recede and things to dry out, so the levees can't be fixed; houses can't be fixed; crops can't be planted," he said. □



This March 2019 photo provided by Henry Red Cloud, shows flooding on Cloud's Lakota Solar Enterprises property on the Pine Ridge Reservation in southern South Dakota.

Associated Press

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Trump says he won't deliver tax returns to Congress

By **ANDREW TAYLOR and JONATHAN LEMIRE**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump, facing a congressional deadline for his administration to provide his tax returns, said Wednesday that he "won't do it" while he's under audit by the IRS.

Trump told reporters at the White House that "I would love to give them, but I'm not going to do it while I'm under audit." The IRS says there's no rule against subjects of an audit from publicly releasing their tax filings.

Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass., chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, has asked the IRS to turn over six years' of the president's tax returns by



President Donald Trump speaks to members of the media on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, before boarding Marine One helicopter, Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

Associated Press

the end of the day. Trump has broken with decades of precedent by not voluntarily releasing his returns to the public.

Trump's position has long been that he is under au-

dit and therefore could not release his returns. But in recent weeks, he has added to the argument, saying publicly and privately that the American people elected him once without

seeing his taxes and would do so again.

"Remember, I got elected last time — the same exact issue," Trump said. "Frankly, the people don't care."

The president has told those close to him that the attempt to get his returns were an invasion of his privacy and a further example of the Democratic-led "witch hunt" — like special counsel Robert Mueller's probe — meant to damage him.

Trump has repeatedly asked aides as to the status of the House request, and has inquired about the "loyalty" of the top officials at the IRS, according to one outside adviser who requested anonymity to discuss private conversations

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who supervises the IRS, said Tuesday that he's not seeking direction from the White House on whether to comply. He said the department would likely respond by Neal's deadline but didn't say whether he would provide the returns as demanded.

Democrats don't expect the department to comply, but they haven't sketched out their next steps.

Neal has adopted a methodical approach to seeking Trump's returns. He has the option of eventually seeking to subpoena the records or to go to court if the IRS does not comply, but it's not clear he'll adopt a more confrontational approach just yet.

Neal's initial letter, sent a week ago, didn't lay out any consequences for the IRS if it didn't comply, and a spokesman said a likely course would be a second, more insistent, letter.

"We intend to follow through with this," Neal

said Wednesday. "I'll let you know fast."

The request for Trump's tax filings is but one of many oversight efforts launched by Democrats after taking back the House in last fall's midterms. Neal is relying on a 1920s-era law that says the IRS "shall furnish" any tax return requested by the chairmen of key House and Senate committees.

Mnuchin told lawmakers that his department will "follow the law" but hasn't shared the department's interpretation of the statute.

The White House did not respond to questions as to whether the president asked Mnuchin or the IRS head to intervene. The president's outside attorney also did not respond to a request for comment.

The head of the IRS faced questions from lawmakers for a second day on his response to Neal's request.

"You are on the receiving end of a very aggressive political campaign by the Trump administration. ... It is your job, and your job alone, to respond to Chairman Neal's request," Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, the senior Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, told Commissioner Charles Rettig.

Wyden cited the importance of the IRS to be independent of political pressure.

"We're working on a response with counsel and we will respond," Rettig said.

Rettig had agreed with Democrats on Tuesday that it's primarily his decision to make, though he reports to Mnuchin. "You must be aware that we're a bureau of Treasury, and Treasury supervises us," he told Wyden. □

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Lawyer: Challenge to NYC's vaccination order in the works

By KAREN MATTHEWS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City's effort to halt a measles outbreak by ordering mandatory vaccinations in one Brooklyn neighborhood is facing opposition, with lawyers for parents opposed to vaccinations promising to file a lawsuit challenging the order by Friday.

But city health officials say they have struck the right balance with the unusual order, and they hope a mixture of outreach and prodding will overcome resistance to vaccines in a slice of the predominantly Orthodox Jewish community hardest hit by the disease.

"The measles vaccine is highly effective," Dr. Herminia Palacio, the city's deputy mayor for health and human services, said Wednesday. "Measles is highly contagious. That combination means this is the right time for this measure." Palacio spoke a day after she joined Mayor Bill de Blasio and other officials in announcing the vaccine order affecting four ZIP codes in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn and threatening possible fines of up to \$1,000 for noncompliance. Civil rights attorney Michael Sussman called the order "an overreach of authority" and said a lawsuit challenging it will be filed this week.

Sussman also represented a group of parents in suburban Rockland County who challenged the county executive's order barring unvaccinated children from indoor public spaces. A state judge sided with the parents and issued a preliminary injunction against the emergency order last week.

New York City and Rockland County are both struggling to contain a measles outbreak that has mainly affected Orthodox Jewish families.

Some 285 measles cases have been identified in New York City since last fall, compared with two in all of 2017. There have been 168 cases reported in Rockland since the fall.

De Blasio said Tuesday that he was confident New York City's vaccination order would survive any legal challenge.

"This is a public health emergency," the Democratic mayor said. "And the reason the city government is empowered in a public health emergency is to save lives."

Authorities will carry out the order by interviewing Williamsburg residents who have been diagnosed with measles and then interviewing everyone who those people have come in contact with.

"These are skills that we practice every day," Palacio said. "It's not just that



Girls play in a yeshiva schoolyard, Tuesday, April 9, 2019, in the Williamsburg section of New York.

they know what questions to ask. They actually do know how to work with people. They have experience gaining people's trust."

The health officials will try to persuade any unvaccinated person who has been exposed to measles to get the vaccine. People who refuse the vaccine or who refuse to get their children vaccinated could be fined, though de Blasio said he hoped to avoid levying any fines.

"Our goal is not to fine anyone," de Blasio said. "Our goal is to get people vaccinated. But we're also trying to help everyone understand there is urgency here." The city believes an estimated 1,800 children in Williamsburg were not immunized as of December. Health officials have made robocalls urging vaccination to more than 30,000 Williamsburg households

and have stocked health care providers in the community with an ample supply of vaccine, Palacio said.

Officials said their efforts have paid off with 8,000 additional vaccinations in affected neighborhoods compared with the prior year. But they said they were taking additional steps to control the outbreak in advance of Passover, when some families may travel overseas to areas in Israel or Europe that are experiencing measles outbreaks.

Doctors who practice in Brooklyn's Orthodox Jewish communities say only a small number of people refuse inoculations outright because they believe erroneously that vaccines are harmful or that they violate Jewish law, but factors including large families may have helped the outbreak spread. □

Limo company operator pleads not guilty in fatal crash

SCHOHARIE, N.Y. (AP)—The operator of a limousine company pleaded not guilty Wednesday to 20 counts each of criminally negligent homicide and second-degree manslaughter in a crash that killed 20 people in rural upstate New York.

Nauman Hussain, 29, operator of Prestige Limousine, was released on \$450,000 bond after his arraignment in Schoharie County Court and will be subject to electronic monitoring until his

Sept. 9 trial. He had been free on \$150,000 bond since his arrest in October. Prestige's stretch limousine ran a stop sign at a T-intersection on Oct. 6 and crashed beside a country store, killing the driver, two pedestrians and 17 passengers bound for a birthday celebration.

The crash was the deadliest transportation disaster in the United States in a decade.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigat-

ing, but a final report could be more than a year away. Defense attorney Lee Kindlon said in a court brief that extensive records demonstrate the company's efforts to maintain the vehicle's road-worthiness. He said the intersection's design and "treacherous" road conditions contributed to the accident, and he contended that the driver had "a number of intoxicants" including marijuana in his system.

The limousine company is

owned by Hussain's father, Shahed Hussain, who has been in Pakistan since before the crash.

He has not been charged criminally but is named as a defendant along with his son in civil suits brought by families of the crash victims. In his brief, Kindlon said Shahed Hussain was born in Pakistan, came to the U.S. as a child and became a citizen about 10 years ago. He owns several rental properties in the Albany area. □

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States pushing near-bans on abortion, targeting Roe v. Wade

By **DAVID CRARY**
AP National Writer

Emboldened by the new conservative majority on the Supreme Court, anti-abortion lawmakers and activists in numerous states are pushing near-total bans on the procedure in a deliberate frontal attack on Roe v. Wade.

Mississippi and Kentucky have passed laws that would ban most abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected, which means as early as six weeks, when many women don't even know they're pregnant. Georgia could join them if Republican Gov. Brian Kemp signs a measure that has been sent to him.

And a bill in Ohio won final approval Wednesday in the Republican-controlled legislature; it now heads to GOP Gov. Mike DeWine, who said he will sign it. The final votes followed a spirited committee hearing where abortion rights activists evoked an era of back alleys and coat-hanger abortions.

Similar bills have been filed in at least seven other states with anti-abortion GOP majorities in their legislatures.

Alabama may go further, with legislation introduced last week to criminalize abortion at any stage unless the mother's health is in jeopardy.

The chief sponsor of the Alabama bill, Rep. Terri Col-



In this Jan. 18, 2019, file photo, anti-abortion activists protest outside of the U.S. Supreme Court, during the March for Life in Washington.

lins, acknowledged that the measure — like the heartbeat bills — is intended as a direct challenge to Roe, the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion nationwide.

"To me this is an issue the court simply got wrong years ago," said Collins, who hopes President Donald Trump's appointments of Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court lead to a reconsideration of Roe.

Staci Fox, Atlanta-based CEO of Planned Parenthood Southeast, said these bans are "blatantly uncon-

stitutional and lawmakers know it — they just don't care." The goal, she said, is to "challenge access to safe, legal abortion nationally."

Activists and legal experts on both sides of the debate agree that getting a Supreme Court decision on such a defining case is unlikely any time soon.

The bans may face difficulties just reaching the high court, given that Roe established a clear right to an abortion during the first three months of pregnancy. Kentucky's heartbeat law has been blocked for

now by a federal judge; abortion-rights lawyers are seeking a similar injunction in Mississippi before the law there takes effect July 1.

"The lower courts are going to find these laws unconstitutional because the Supreme Court requires that outcome," said Hillary Schneller, an attorney with the Center for Reproductive Rights.

However, some federal appeals courts around the country, such as the 5th Circuit, which covers Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, are viewed as having grown more conservative

with the addition of Trump appointees.

If even one circuit breaks with Roe v. Wade and upholds a heartbeat ban, that could be enough for the Supreme Court to take up the issue, said Justin Dyer, a political science professor at the University of Missouri. Alternatively, the high court could agree to hear any of several less sweeping anti-abortion measures. Some would tighten restrictions on clinics; others seek to ban certain categories of abortions.

What might happen at the Supreme Court is far from clear. Legal experts are unsure what effect the Trump appointees might have, or where Chief Justice John Roberts stands in regard to Roe.

Schneller said she is skeptical the reconfigured court will overturn or weaken Roe, as abortion foes are hoping: "Over 45 years, the court has had different compositions, and we've always gotten the same answer."

Michael New, an abortion opponent who teaches social research at Catholic University of America, warned that it is impossible to predict what the court will do but said Kavanaugh's appointment "gives pro-lifers hope that legislation which offers more comprehensive protection to the unborn will receive a sympathetic hearing." □

Nearly \$1B in contracts awarded for border fence sections

PHOENIX (AP) — The Army Corps of Engineers has awarded contracts totaling nearly \$1 billion to replace short barriers with tall fences along two sections of the U.S.-Mexico border. The Corps of Engineers said in a statement Wednesday that 46 miles (74 kilometers) of fencing will be installed near Columbus, New Mexico, and 11 miles (18 kilometers) will be installed near Yuma, Arizona.

The fencing in New Mexico will be installed by SLSCo. of Galveston, Texas, which got a \$789 million contract. Barnard Construction Co.



This April 6, 2018, file photo, provided by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shows a new type of bollard wall that will replace existing wire mesh and vehicle barriers near the Santa Teresa, N.M., port of entry.

Associated Press

Inc., of Bozeman, Montana, was awarded a \$187 million contract for the other work. The contractors will remove waist-length fencing, known as vehicle barriers, and replace it with tall fencing that will go up to 30-feet high in New Mexico. The new fencing is similar to what's already in place in large parts of the border. The Corps said the fencing will help "impede and deny illegal border crossings and smuggling of drugs and humans."

The Department of Homeland Security has not responded to an inquiry for

comment. Laiken Jordahl, borderlands campaigner for the Center for Biological Diversity, said the additional fencing will sever a known corridor for a wide range of species. "It's hard to explain just how much the wall impacts the entire ecosystem," Jordahl said. □





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Principals from schools with shootings form support network

By KANTELE FRANKO
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — In the days after a teenager shot and killed three fellow students at Ohio's Chardon High School in 2012, then-Principal Andy Fetchik remembers getting a call from someone who knew just what he was experiencing.

It was Frank DeAngelis, the principal of Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, during the deadly 1999 shooting. DeAngelis told him: It's going to be OK. You'll get through this. If you have questions, feel free to call me.

Fetchik called, and he found DeAngelis to be a comfort and a resource as Chardon began its recovery.

"This is the network each of us wishes we had when the shooting occurred in our school," DeAngelis said in a written statement.

The Principals Recovery Network will also advocate for educational resources and policies to help schools prevent violence. It convened this month ahead of the 20th anniversary of the Columbine shooting.

The group, organized by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, includes 17 current and former principals from schools in 11 states, including Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, the site of a shooting in 2018. Collectively, the participants have lost more than 40 students and staff and seen scores more wounded in shootings over the past two



In this March 23, 2019 file photo, former Columbine principal Frank DeAngelis reflects about the upcoming 20th anniversary of the mass shooting at the suburban Denver high school.

decades.

"We're not experts in recovery, but we're experts in the fact that we lived through it," Fetchik said, "and I think that it will provide a resource that kind of confirms to the school leader that there's others out there and they're not alone."

When a teenager shot and wounded a classmate at West Liberty-Salem High School in 2017, leaders from two other Ohio schools that experienced shootings reached out with valuable suggestions, such as having an open house before resuming classes so students and staff could ease back into the building that some had fled, Principal Greg Johnson said.

A year later, after two students were fatally shot and others wounded at

Kentucky's Marshall County High School, Johnson wanted to offer help but had trouble connecting with the principal — understandable, he said, given the crush of communications, support and well-wishes that a school must sort through in such circumstances. Johnson waited months, tried again and eventually connected with the principal to share some of what he'd learned with her, he said.

The new network gives that kind of outreach structure and a centralized contact, participants said.

"What better group of people to do it than the folks who have experienced it?" said Michael Bennett, a former principal who was shot in the leg by a student in 2004 when he was a teacher at Columbia High

tional responses.

Principal Warman Hall, of New Mexico's Aztec High School, eventually connected with DeAngelis after two students died in a 2017 shooting on the school's campus. But Hall said he, too, felt a sense of isolation and could have used someone with prior experience as a sounding board while initially sorting out a recovery plan.

Schools typically have protocols for the immediate response, he said, but it can be much more complicated to figure out what follows — how to restore a focus on learning, address mental health needs for both students and employees, and navigate anniversaries and commemorations, for example.

"You've got to deal with all the issues of recovery, and that starts happening just as soon as you try to re-establish contact and get the kids back on campus and get the teachers back on campus," he said. "There's no template for that." □

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Australian prime minister calls May 18 election

By **ROD McGUIRK**

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)

— Australia's prime minister on Thursday called a May 18 election that will be fought on issues including climate change, asylum seekers and economic management.

"We live in the best country in the world," Prime Minister Scott Morrison told reporters after advising the governor-general to authorize the election.

"But to secure your future, the road ahead depends on a strong economy. And that's why there is so much at stake at this election," he added.

Morrison's conservative coalition is seeking a third three-year term. But Morrison is the third prime minister to lead a divided government in that time and only took the helm in late August.

Opinion polls suggest his reign will become one of the shortest in the 118-year history of Australian prime ministers on election day. The polls suggest center-left opposition leader Bill Shorten will become the eighth prime minister since the country plunged into an extraordinary period of political instability in 2007.

The election pits Shorten, a former labor union leader who has presented himself as the alternative prime minister for the past six years, and Morrison, a leader who the Australian public is still getting to know.

Morrison is seen as the architect of Australia's tough refugee policy that has all but stopped the people-smuggling traffic of boats from Southeast Asian ports since 2014. The policy has been condemned by human rights groups as an abrogation of Australia's responsibilities as a signatory to the United Nations Refugee Convention.

Morrison's first job in Prime Minister Tony Abbott's newly elected coalition government in 2013 was as minister for immigration and border protection. He oversaw the secretive military-run Operation Sovereign Borders.

Asylum seekers from the Middle East, Africa and Asia would typically disa-

would give priority to finding permanent homes for the asylum seekers who

The coalition is torn between lawmakers who want polluters to pay for

The coalition also argues that Labor would further damage the economy with its policy of reducing tax breaks for landlords as real estate prices fall in Australia's largest cities, Sydney and Melbourne.

Morrison boasts that the conservative administration Prime Minister Howard led delivered 10 annual surplus budgets and paid off all federal government debt before the government changed at the 2007 election.

Rudd had planned a budget surplus in his government's first fiscal year, but the global financial crisis struck.

Many economists congratulate Rudd for keeping the Australian economy out of recession through stimulus spending. The coalition has accused Labor of spending too much and sinking Australia too deep in debt. But debt has continued to mount since the conservatives regained the reins in 2013. But opinion polls suggest voters consider the conservatives to be better economic managers.

The government brought forward its annual budget blueprint by a month to April 2 and revealed a plan to balance Australia's books in the next fiscal year for the first time in 12 years. Labor also promised to deliver a surplus budget in the year starting July 1, but it has yet to detail how it will achieve this goal.

Labor has also promised to spend an additional AU\$2.3 billion (\$1.6 billion) over four years on covering treatment costs of cancer patients. It's an attractive offer with half Australia's population expected to be diagnosed with some form of the disease in their lifetimes.

The conservatives have largely taken credit for Australia's remarkable run of 28 years of economic growth since its last recession under Labor's rule.

Morrison hopes that voters will look to him to deliver a sequel to the Howard years when a mining boom delivered ever-increasing budget surpluses. □



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, second left, shakes hands with Governor General Peter Cosgrove as he leaves Government House in Canberra, Thursday, April 11, 2019, after a meeting to dissolve parliament and head for a Federal Election.

Associated Press

or sink their boats when intercepted by patrol ships in waters north of Australia so that the Australian crews would have to rescue them rather than turn the boats away. Under the new regime, the asylum seekers were placed in motorized life boats that were towed back to Indonesia. The life boats had just enough fuel to reach the Indonesian coast. The Indonesian government complained the policy was an affront to Indonesian sovereignty.

The government has also maintained a policy adopted in the final months of a Labor government in 2013 of sending boat arrivals to camps on the Pacific island nations of Papua New Guinea and Nauru. Those who attempt to reach Australia by boat are told they will never be allowed to settle there.

Morrison remains proud of virtually stopping people-smuggler boat traffic. He has a trophy shaped like a people-smuggler's boat in his office inscribed with "I Stopped These."

Labor has promised to maintain the policy of banning boat arrivals to the islands. But Labor says it

have languished in island camps for years.

The conservative coalition argues that the boats would start coming again because a Labor government would soften the regime.

The government introduced temporary protection visas for boat arrivals so that refugees face potential deportation every three years if the circumstances that they fled in their homelands improve. Labor would give refugees permanent visas so that they have the certainty to plan their lives. Climate change policy is a political battlefield in a country that is the world's largest exporter of coal and liquefied natural gas and has been one of the world's worst greenhouse gas emitters on a per capita basis because of its heavily reliance on coal-fired power generation.

Disagreement over energy policy has been a factor in the last six changes of prime minister.

Labor Prime Minister Julia Gillard introduced a carbon tax in 2012. Conservative Prime Minister Tony Abbott scrapped it two years later.

their greenhouse gas emissions and those who reject any measures that would increase household power bills.

The government aims to reduce Australian greenhouse gas emissions by 26% to 28% below 2005 levels by 2030.

Action on climate change was a major priority for votes when conservative Prime Minister John Howard's reign ended after more than 11 years at an election in 2007.

Labor Prime Minister Kevin Rudd immediately signed up to the U.N.'s 1997 Kyoto Protocol on reducing emissions. Australia and the United States had been the only industrialized countries to hold out.

Climate change dropped down the list of Australian priorities after the global financial crisis hit.

But after Australians sweltered through a record hot summer and grappled with devastating drought, global warming has become a high-priority issue for voters again.

The government warns that Labor's emissions reduction plan would wreck the economy.



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Europe hurt by US trade threats, central bank says

By DAVID McHUGH

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— The head of the European Central Bank warned that global friction over trade — such as U.S. threats to impose more tariffs — is holding back the economy as he underlined the bank's readiness to deploy more stimulus if needed.

Mario Draghi said Wednesday that an improving jobs market and rising wages were helping the economy in the 19 countries that use the euro but uncertainties like trade disputes and Brexit are hurting it.

"Global headwinds continue to weigh on euro area growth," he told a news conference after the central bank kept its key interest rates and policy promises on hold.

Draghi was speaking hours after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to pile tariffs on another \$11 billion worth of goods from the European Union, ratcheting up tensions as the two sides negotiate trade terms.

"The fact that these threats are being voiced with some frequency is certainly undermining confidence," Draghi said.

The 19-country eurozone, which relies heavily on exports, has also suffered from uncertainty created by a separate U.S. dispute with China over trade. Trump has targeted countries that sell more to the U.S. than they buy, saying he is protecting American companies and jobs.

Yet the trade disputes have unsettled the global



President of European Central Bank Mario Draghi speaks during a press conference following the Governing Council meeting in Frankfurt, Germany, Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

Associated Press

economy. The International Monetary Fund on Tuesday cut its growth outlook for this year to 3.3% from 3.5% and its chief economist said the global economy was at

"a delicate moment."

Britain's looming departure from the EU - with leaders meeting Wednesday to discuss proposals for a delay - has further created con-

cerns about new barriers to trade in Europe.

The eurozone economy has sagged under the pressure of the uncertainty stemming from those ongoing concerns. One-off factors have also hurt activity, including troubles in the auto industry.

The European Commission forecasts eurozone growth of 1.3% for all of 2019, from 1.8% last year. Unemployment is down to 7.8% from a peak of 12.1% in 2013, helping domestic demand for goods and services.

Draghi said that the ECB, the chief monetary authority for the European Union member countries that use the euro currency, was ready to use all its policies to help the economy, should it be needed. □

Vatican opens its own probe in decades-old missing girl case

By GIADA ZAMPANO

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — The Vatican has for the first time opened its own investigation into the case of Emanuela Orlandi, a 15-year-old Vatican citizen who disappeared in the summer of 1983.

The Orlandi family's lawyer, Laura Sgrò, confirmed the probe on Wednesday. She told The Associated Press that "the Secretariat of State has authorized the opening of an investigation into a grave in the Teutonic Cemetery inside the Vatican," after an anonymous tipster indicated that investigators should look where a statue of an angel in the cemetery is pointing.

The Vatican had previously said it was handling a request from the Orlandi family to reopen a tomb close to the statue of an angel holding a sheet bearing

the words "Rest in peace." Interim Vatican spokesman Alessandro Gisotti declined further comment on Wednesday.

Orlandi was the daughter of a Vatican employee who lived with his family in the tiny city state. She was

15 when she disappeared after a music lesson in Rome. The family has long demanded to see Vatican documentation about the enduring mystery.

The cold case gained new attention at the end of October when two sets of

remains were found in the basement of the Vatican Nunciature, an extraterritorial Church property located in Rome's city center. The identification of at least one of the bodies as female led to immediate speculation in Italy that

the findings might eventually shed light on one of the country's most persistent mysteries.

Investigators said at the time that preliminary examinations of the bones indicated they belonged to a woman likely in her 30s. □



In this May 27, 2012, file photo, demonstrators hold pictures of Emanuela Orlandi reading "march for truth and justice for Emanuela" during Pope Benedict XVI's Regina Coeli prayer in St. Peter's square, at the Vatican.

Associated Press

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Israel's election exposes its deep political divisions

By JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's apparent election victory has deepened the divisions in an already-divided country.

Bolstered by his base of religious and working-class voters, Netanyahu can be expected to press ahead with a hard-line agenda that will likely eliminate the last hopes of a two-state solution with the Palestinians. A looming indictment in a series of corruption scandals could even accelerate these trends.

For all the talk of unity from political leaders during the campaign, Israel is a deeply tribal country. People are divided between Jews and Arabs; religious Jews and secular Jews; Jews of European ancestry and those of Middle Eastern heritage; and residents of the secular, high-tech metropolis of Tel Aviv and people from dusty, outlying towns, West Bank settlements and the conservative capital of Jerusalem. Netanyahu, himself a secular, U.S.-educated millionaire with a propensity for cognac and cigars, has nonetheless aligned himself with downtrodden Jewish Israelis with whom he would seem to have little in common. Portraying himself as a victim of the country's "elites," Netanyahu is seen as their hero. "Netanyahu is the best prime minister the state of Israel has ever had, and we will continue to support him," said Alon Davidi, mayor of the south-



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu waves to his supporters after polls for Israel's general elections closed in Tel Aviv, Israel, Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

ern town of Sderot.

Just two weeks ago, Davidi's town was dealing with around-the-clock air raid sirens as Palestinian militants in the neighboring Gaza Strip were bombarding southern Israeli communities with rocket fire.

It's a scene the residents of southern Israel have gotten used to since the Hamas militant group seized power in Gaza 12 years ago. It's also a constant source of frustration. Residents complained about Netanyahu's inability to stop the rockets and were furious over his latest behind-the-scenes cease-fire deal with Hamas.

But given a chance to change things in Tuesday's election, residents of Sderot voted overwhelmingly for

Netanyahu's Likud party and its religious and nationalist allies.

"We are intelligent people," Davidi told the Army Radio station. "We are people who know how to appreciate everything that's done for us, and I think that Netanyahu and all the right-wing parties are doing what they can do and what they believe." In Sderot, whose population is largely working class, religious and of Mizrahi, or Middle Eastern, descent, Netanyahu's Likud received 44% of the vote, compared with 9% for the rival Blue and White party, according to official election data. More than 80% of Sderot voted for Likud and its religious and nationalist allies.

Similar thinking took place across Israel. A look at the electoral map showed Likud and its allies sweeping the vote in smaller, outlying cities and towns, West Bank settlements and in Jerusalem, whose population is largely poor and religious. In contrast, Blue and White, led by former military chief Benny Gantz, coasted to victory in Tel Aviv, the country's prosperous commercial and cultural center, as well as the nearby suburbs that are home to a more professional and affluent population.

On the campaign trail, Gantz sought to project an image of decency and virtue, taking aim at the corruption investigations swirling around Netanyahu and promising a clean and hon-

est government. In contrast, the 69-year-old Netanyahu, facing the strong likelihood of criminal charges in the coming months, sounded very much like his friend President Donald Trump. He frequently portrayed himself as the victim of a "witch hunt" and accused Gantz of conspiring with politicians from the country's Arab minority to topple him. Even after a decade in office, Netanyahu marketed himself as the outsider. These different approaches were on display on election night, when preliminary results showed a close race and each candidate declared victory. Gantz's rally looked like a celebration. Netanyahu's felt like a sporting event, with the whipped-up crowd whooping and hollering as if it were at a soccer match. Where Gantz's supporters were excited, Netanyahu's supporters — many wearing Jewish skullcaps and dancing to Mizrahi pop music — were ecstatic. His speech included a Jewish prayer and a Trump-like swipe at the "hostile" media.

Netanyahu's opponents finally conceded defeat Wednesday, acknowledging that he and his traditional allies control a solid majority in the 120-seat parliament. But the process of building a coalition can require weeks of negotiations, and his smaller partners will be looking to extract control of powerful government ministries and generous budgets to promote their pet causes. □



An Afghan security force check the site a day after an attack near the Bagram Air Base, north of Kabul, Afghanistan, Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

Associated Press

Afghan government says talks with Taliban delayed 5 days

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The Afghan government says talks with the Taliban will take place on April 19 in Doha, the capital of Qatar, five days later than originally scheduled.

Abdul Hadi Arghandewal, a member of the leadership council for reconciliation, says Wednesday more discussions on the Afghan negotiation team are needed.

The meeting is seen as a significant step toward finding an end to Afghanistan's

protracted war and the withdrawal of U.S. troops. Afghan government representatives are participating in talks as part of a larger group of prominent Afghans. The Taliban say they will speak with the government representatives but recognize them only as "ordinary" Afghans. Arghandewal says the council will announce the Afghan negotiating team in the next three to four days. Taliban officials confirmed the delay without providing more details. □

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Fire breaks out at Bangkok mall complex, killing at least 2

By **GEMUNU AMARASINGHE**
Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — A fire broke out at one of Bangkok's biggest mall complexes on Wednesday, killing at least two people and injuring more than a dozen, officials said.

The extent of the fire at the Thai capital's CentralWorld complex, which includes a hotel, a convention center and an office tower, was small, but it caused the shopping mall's evacuation.

The blaze was quickly extinguished, but smoke still needed to be released from several floors, and firefighters were seen entering the building with masks and oxygen tanks.

Smoke was seen still coming from the building at 9:45 p.m., around four hours after the fire broke out.

Bangkok Gov. Assawin Kwanmuang initially told reporters that three people died, one at the scene and



Emergency rescue teams gather outside of the Central World mall complex, Wednesday, April 10, 2019, in downtown Bangkok, Thailand.

Associated Press

two at a hospital. He later said that two people were confirmed dead, but did not explain the discrepancy. The city's Erawan Emergency Radio network said 17 people were injured.

The company that operates CentralWorld said in a statement that the two people who died were company employees. Assawin said the fire was believed to have started in

a document storage room in one of the buildings that is part of the complex. Video posted on social media soon after the fire began showed a person jumping from one of the

complex's buildings. Thai media reported that at least one of the people who died had jumped from a building.

Images showed large flames raging out of what appeared to be a rear portion of the complex.

Other video showed hundreds of evacuated shoppers filling a large open square next to the mall. Ambulances and other vehicles with their emergency lights on and trucks filled with firefighters could be seen.

In another video, a woman is seen directing shoppers out of the mall during the evacuation.

"I was in the mail and there was a burning smell and smoke started to come out," said Suthep Damgijiam, who was with a friend. "A fire alarm started to ring and there were announcements on the PA system telling people to evacuate. We came out. □

Cyclone Idai's death toll now above 1,000 in southern Africa

By **FARAI MUTSAKA**
Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — The death toll from the cyclone that ripped into southern Africa last month is now above 1,000, while the number of cholera cases among survivors has risen above 4,000.

The United Nations has described Cyclone Idai, which hit Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi nearly a month ago, as "one of the deadliest storms on record in the southern hemisphere."

Zimbabwe's information

minister on Tuesday said the death toll in that country has risen to 344. Mozambique has reported 602 deaths and Malawi at least 59.

Zimbabwe's efforts are now "confined to recovery of the deceased" and the government will send pathologists to Mozambique to help identify bodies, said Information Minister Monica Mutsvangwa. An unknown number of Zimbabweans were washed down mountainsides into Mozambique, which also has turned from search

and recovery efforts to relief work providing food and shelter to survivors.

Zimbabwe, whose economy is badly struggling, said it needs \$612 million to assist survivors and has appealed for international support.

A final death toll is yet to be established and might never be known. A cholera outbreak among survivors was declared in Mozambique on March 27 and had led to 4,072 cases and seven deaths as of Tuesday morning, according to government figures. □



Women and men pick up bricks from a collapsed house to build another structure in Beira, Mozambique, Sunday, March, 31, 2019.

Associated Press

Red Cross regains entry to Venezuela jails, military prisons

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— The International Committee of the Red Cross has regained access to prisons in Venezuela, including highly guarded military facilities where dozens of inmates considered political prisoners are being held, as President Nicolas Maduro seeks to counter mounting criticism of his government's human rights record.

The fact that the visits include military prisons, which hadn't been previously reported, was confirmed to The Associated Press by a human rights lawyer and family members of those detained.

International Red Cross President Peter Maurer met with Maduro Tuesday night as he wraps up a five-day visit to Venezuela, where the Geneva-based group is among international organizations trying to carve out a space to deliver badly needed humanitarian aid and technical assistance free of the winner-take-all politics contributing to the country's turmoil.

Critics say the prison visits, which were coordinated directly with the socialist government with little input from its opponents, have the effect of legitimizing Maduro's rule at a time he's face mounting pressure from the U.S. and dozens of allies to resign.



In this April 28, 2017 file photo, prison guards stand on the roof of the Ramo Verde military prison in Los Teques, on the outskirts of Caracas, Venezuela.

Associated Press

But others say it's a glimmer of hope in an otherwise grim outlook for the country, opening normally thin-skinned authorities to scrutiny — albeit of a confidential nature — and that along with renewed engagement with international actors like the World Food Program and Pan American Health Organization could possibly pave the way for political dialogue.

Red Cross representatives visit prisons every year in more than 100 countries, following an established protocol allowing it to verify conditions of confinement

and hold private conversations with inmates in which they can voice complaints and send messages to loved ones.

But the group had been denied access in Venezuela at least since 2012. The renewed visits in Venezuela began March 11 when a Red Cross delegation visited a model prison in Caracas, the Simon Bolivar Center for the Formation of New Men. Eighty-seven foreigners are being held.

But more significant was the visit two weeks later to the military-run Ramo Verde prison outside Cara-

cas, which holds 69 people the opposition considers political prisoners.

Sandra Hernandez, whose husband, Sgt. Luis Figueroa, has been jailed at Ramo Verde since January for leading a military uprising against Maduro, was present last week when a white vehicle emblazoned with the international Red Cross' logo pulled up to the prison entrance.

She was there for her once-a-week visit, delivering basic staples — pasta, rice and cheese — that have become harder to afford since she was fired from her \$7-a-month job as a teach-

er in what she said was retaliation for her husband's opposition to the government.

She said that if not for remittances sent by a relative in Spain, her husband could starve on the scant rations provided by prison authorities.

While her husband told her he wasn't among the small group of prisoners allowed to speak with the Red Cross representatives, she was hopeful the visit would help improve dire conditions for all inmates, many of whom she said are suffering from lack of medical attention and claim to have been tortured. The AP was unable to independently verify those claims.

"It's very important they talk to prisoners and see firsthand what's happening inside," she said.

Red Cross officials declined to comment and the group has made little mention of the prison visits, saying only in a Tweet that it had begun visiting jails under the auspices of civilian penitentiary authorities. It made no mention of the visits to the military-run facilities.

Prisons Minister Iris Varela has said the visit to the civilian facility, and others to come, were part of an effort to share with the world Venezuela's positive experience rehabilitating inmates. □

Judge orders detention of former Peruvian president



In this photo provided by the Andina News Agency, Peru's former President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, waves as he leaves a medical branch of the prosecutor's office, in Lima, Peru, Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

Associated Press

Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — A Peruvian judge on Wednesday ordered the 10-day detention of former President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski as part of a money laundering probe into his consulting work for the company at the heart of Latin America's biggest graft scandal.

Special police agents gathered outside Kuczynski's neo-colonial mansion in Lima and later left with the former Wall Street banker in a white SUV.

He was taken to a prosecutor's office, where he was expected to be examined by a doctor before being

placed in detention.

"This is a very difficult moment for me," Kuczynski wrote on Twitter. "But I will confront it with fortitude of someone who has only dreamed of a better country."

The 80-year-old ex-head of state resigned last year after opposition lawmakers seeking his impeachment revealed that his private consulting firm had received some \$782,000 in previously undisclosed payments from Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht more than a decade ago. Prosecutor Jose Domingo Perez, whose anti-corruption

crusade has rallied Peruvians accustomed to seeing their leaders go unpunished for financial crimes, said some of the payments were made when Kuczynski was serving as a Cabinet minister and overseeing Odebrecht's construction of a highway connecting Peru to Brazil. Peru has gone farther than any other nation outside Brazil in prosecuting politicians for their ties to Odebrecht, which admitted in a plea agreement with the U.S. Justice Department to doling out almost \$800 million in bribes for business throughout Latin America. □

LOCAL



The University of Aruba hosted the International Academic Island States/Island Territories Conference

ORANJESTAD — The first “International Conference on Small Island States and Subnational Island Jurisdictions” was hosted March 26-29, 2019 by the University of Aruba, in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (COE) and the UNESCO Chair in Island Studies and Sustainability, which is shared between the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) in Canada and the University of Malta.

The theme of the conference was “Island States/Island Territories: Sharing Stories of Island Life, Governance and Global Engagement.” The conference appealed to scholars, policy-makers, NGO representatives, students and members of the general public who networked and shared knowledge on Sustainable Development on islands. In total the conference had approximately 100 participants. Several geographic regions were represented, including the Caribbean, Pacific and Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS), Australasia and the North Atlantic. We had 18 local conference presenters, with a multi-disciplinary participation, which included local lecturers from three University of Aruba faculties: The Faculty for Accounting, Finance and Marketing of the University of Aruba (FEF), the Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS) and The Faculty of Hospitality & Tourism Management Studies (FHTMS). The conference also awarded 6 international Student Travel Scholarships and 20 local University of Aruba students joined the sessions as part of their curriculum.

The international participants enjoyed an Aruban



Welcome with a conference dinner at the Old Cunucu House Restaurant and a field trip to Aruba's San Nicolas district where they also visited the Industrial Museum to get to know about Aruba's island history.

Additionally, we are very proud to have had two female Heads of Government as keynote speakers addressing integrity in governance and the resilience of islands; both the Honourable Evelyn C. Wever-

Croes, Prime Minister of Aruba & Minister of General Affairs, Integrity, Energy, Innovation, & Government Organization, as well as the Honourable Leona Romeo-Marlin, Prime Minister of Sint Maarten & Minister of General Affairs, graced us with their insights.

The community enjoyed a free public lecture by Dr. Godfrey Baldacchino organized alongside the conference on the evening of March 28th, whereby the University was honoured to

receive the attendance of the Governor of Aruba.

The conference's international planning committee is chaired by UNESCO co-chair, Dr. Jim Randall (UPEI). Local co-hosts included Deborah Alexander from the Centre for Lifelong Learning at University of Aruba, Glenn Thodé, Rector of the University of Aruba, Patrick Arens, Business Director of the University of Aruba, and Arno Boersma and Francielle Laclé from the COE. The

planning committee comprises scholars from several academic institutions including the University of the West Indies, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, University of Malta, Leiden University, and the University of the West of England.

Jim Randall noted that this was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the intellectual capacity and hospitality of the University of Aruba and the island in general. “Several first-time international delegates said to me that this will not be the first time they plan on visiting Aruba,” he said.

The Planning Committee is grateful for the contributions made by the sponsors to this event. These include The Dutch Ministry of Interior Affairs and Kingdom Relations, Guardian Group Fatum, University of the West of England, Aruba Tourism Authority, Think to Do Institute, Smith & Dorlas, Aruba Aloe

For more information, contact islands.conference@ua.aw.





Student Affairs

By Louedska Maduro

The Last Lap

SOUTH CAROLINA — It's the month of April! Which means that this is my last month as an exchange student at the University of South Carolina. Since these are the last few weeks of classes, students are busier than ever studying for exams and writing papers. Many of us are surely counting down the days for classes to end. At least, I am.

Springtime is looking nice at South Carolina. The weather is getting warmer and there is no need for me to wear coats everywhere I go anymore. There are some days though, where the weather is warm and sunny in the morning and by the afternoon, it gets cloudy and rainy. But I can settle for that. The cold weather actually made me appreciate the warm and sunny weather I have back home in Aruba.

Lately, I have been spending a lot of time in the library, studying for my last exams and writing my last papers. Drinking coffee has started to be a part of my daily routine so I can be able to get everything done. When I think back about my first few weeks here, I realize how different things were compared to now. It is crazy how fast time flew by and that these are my last few weeks here.

There are many things I have noticed about myself during these few months here. Ever since I can remember, I always



struggled with the idea of change. I know it is necessary, but sometimes I still fear change. I know that I can have trouble adapting to change. Thus, taking this step to go study abroad for a couple of months was something that I was nervous about and I was not sure how everything would turn out. However, I felt that it was something I needed to experience to develop as a person, so I convinced myself I had to do it. While settling in here, I noticed that I actually started to adapt to change much faster than I thought and eventually embraced the concept of change.

I was never really able to fully experience the "student" life when I was younger. I started working part-time at a young age. Thus, I was always busy with work and school. Afterward, when I was not sure if I should continue my studies at the University of Aruba, I decided to take a gap year and work full time. However,

I quickly realized that I do not want to start working full time at such a young age and decided that it would be best to continue my studies. After the gap year, I enrolled in the program of Organization, Governance, and Management at the University of Aruba and kept working part-time during my studies. When I started the program, I made a promise to myself that I would go on an exchange semester abroad so I can experience something new.

This exchange semester abroad was an opportunity for me to fully experience the student life. I managed to take time for myself and be able to dedicate more time to my studies. In addition, I got the opportunity to travel a lot, which is one of my favorite things to do. I also met a lot of new people and made some great friends. Don't forget about all the great new food I tried. I am sure going to miss some

restaurants when I go back home.

The thought of change did not seem so scary anymore when the time started to pass. I realized I managed to get out of my comfort zone and make the best out of this opportunity. Even though at the start things were a little bit confusing and stressful, I knew I could always count on my family and friends to really help me through the process of adapting to the change.

As the last weeks are approaching, I will probably dedicate my time to studying for finals. There are still some things I want to do before I leave, such as visit Myrtle Beach and take a day trip to Savannah. Which will be happening during one of the weekends or as soon classes are over.

In my next article, I will share my last adventures with all of you and also, my thoughts and feelings of returning back home. □



Louedska Maduro, 25 years old, is currently a third-year student at the University of Aruba in the program of Organization, Governance and Management. Louedska takes part in an exchange abroad during the spring semester. She is now attending the University of South Carolina for the upcoming four months and will take this experience as her inspiration for her column Student Affairs. The column will be in the newspaper every other Thursday.

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The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors at Paradise Beach Villas

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Ms. Darline de Cuba thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years together with representatives of Paradise beach Villas.

Visitors stated that the main reasons for returning to Aruba are the lovely weather, the people of Aruba and the beautiful Sunset. ☐



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For today's newspaper we received 1 great picture from

Marlene and Pat McClusky. They wrote to us:

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Our first trip to paradise and it won't be our last.



The MooMba Beach Spring Break Bash is ON!

PALM BEACH — Attention all Spring Break fans: MooMba Beach is the location of a fabulous party that should not be missed. During the entire weekend of April 12, 13 and 14 the Spring Break Bash is on. It's an afternoon full of fun. Live bands, DJ's, water guns with shots and the foam bath will be live in action. Oh, and don't forget the specials on ice-cold Chill... so much fun! The entrance is free.

See here the schedule:

Friday April 12:

1 PM: DJ Nutzbeatz

5 PM – 9 PM: DJ Bradley Fonseca from the Netherlands



9 PM – 12 AM: The Untouchables band

Saturday April 13:

12 PM – 3.30 PM: DJ Nutzbeatz

3.30 PM – 6.30 PM: Travel Sessions band

Sunday April 14:

3 PM – 7 PM: DJ Golden

7 PM – 10 PM: Joyride band

10 PM – 1 AM: DJ Diablo

You are invited to join the party. Just bring yourself in your best party mood. Enjoy! ☐

SPORTS



16 wins! And a number of other things for the NHL playoffs

By PAT GRAHAM
AP Sports Writer

DENVER (AP) — Welcome back to the playoffs, New York Islanders. Same goes for you, St. Louis, Dallas, Carolina and Calgary.

All five teams are returning to the postseason after at least one season off (or nine, for the Hurricanes). It's a familiar number: In 12 of the last 14 seasons, the playoff lineup has included at least five teams that hadn't been there a year earlier. Same numbers apply as always: four series wins to hoist the Stanley Cup and 16 victories in total. It's a clean slate, too. Just ask Flames coach Bill Peters, whose team amassed 107 points and whose top scorer, Johnny Gaudreau, accumulated 99 points. "I looked at the numbers today — Johnny has zero points and we have zero wins," Peters cracked. "We're all winless. We're all tied."

Remember, no lead is safe. There were an NHL-best 138 multi-goal comeback victories during the regular season. A by-the-numbers glance — with a huge assist to NHL research — heading into a post-season where the Washington Capitals will try to defend their title under a new coach (Todd Reirden) while their old one (Barry Trotz) is back in the running with the Islanders: 7,664 — Goals scored in the regular season, the most in league history.

Continued on Page 23

21-AND-DONE

Nowitzki retires after scoring 30 as Mavs top Suns 120-109

Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki gets emotional after a video played during a break in the first half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Phoenix Suns in Dallas on Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

Associated Press
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Magic Johnson abruptly resigns as Lakers' president

By **GREG BEACHAM**
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Magic Johnson abruptly quit as the Los Angeles Lakers' president of basketball operations Tuesday night, citing his desire to return to the simpler life he enjoyed as a wealthy businessman and beloved former player before taking charge of this tempestuous franchise just over two years ago.

Johnson didn't tell owner Jeanie Buss or general manager Rob Pelinka about his shocking decision before he announced it in front of reporters about 90 minutes before the final game of the Lakers' sixth consecutive losing season.

Los Angeles, which is missing the NBA playoffs yet again despite the off-season addition of LeBron James, played well after Johnson's announcement, but still lost 104-101 to Portland.

"I want to go back to having fun," Johnson said, fighting off tears. "I want to go back to being who I was before taking on this job. We're halfway there with LeBron coming (last summer). I think this summer, with that other star coming in, whoever is going to bring him in, I think this team is really going to be in position to contend for a championship with the growth of the young players."

Johnson didn't directly tie his decision to the future of Luke Walton, but the third-year coach was widely expected to be fired by Johnson. Without using names, Johnson repeatedly mentioned Buss' affinity for Walton, who was in place before Johnson got his job in February 2017, and Johnson's desire not to cause upheaval between the owner and her chosen coach. "(On Wednesday) I would have to affect somebody's livelihood and their life," Johnson said. "And I thought about it and I said, 'That's not fun for me. That's not who I am.' And then I don't want to put her in the middle of us, even though she said, 'Hey, you can do what you want to do.' I know she has great love for him and great love for me."

Johnson and Buss had a three-hour meeting Monday about the direction of the 16-time NBA champion Lakers, who haven't made the postseason since 2013. Magic claimed he didn't finalize his decision until Tuesday morning.

"Somebody is going to have to tell my boss, because I know she's going to be sick," Johnson said. "But I knew I couldn't face her face-to-face and tell her." Buss didn't attend the Lakers' season finale, although Johnson waited by the ex-



Magic Johnson speaks to reporters prior to an NBA basketball game between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Portland Trail Blazers on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

ecutive parking area at Staples Center in hopes of seeing her. Buss tweeted her reaction at halftime.

"Earvin, I loved working side by side with you," Buss wrote. "You've brought us a long way. We will continue the journey. We love you." Walton, who is 98-148 in three seasons, refused to say much about Johnson's announcement after the loss to Portland: "I found out when you guys did. It was 80 minutes before the game ... and I haven't had any time to really process it." Clearly blindsided by Johnson's announcement, the Lakers also issued a team statement at halftime.

"There is no greater Los Angeles Laker than Earvin Johnson," it said. "We are deeply grateful to Magic for all that he has done for our franchise as a player, an ambassador and an

executive. ... He will always be not only a Lakers icon, but our family. As we begin the process of moving forward, we will work in a measured and methodical fashion to make the right moves for the future of our organization."

Johnson's desire for his old life wasn't the only reason for his departure. He also said he is tired of being investigated or fined by the NBA for tampering when he comments on basketball on Twitter or even speaks to another organization's player. Johnson, a longtime broadcaster and respected basketball figure before moving into the front office, has been investigated four times for tampering after everything from a joking comment about Paul George on Jimmy Kimmel's talk show to his response to an email sent to him by Philadelphia's Ben Simmons.

"I thought about Dwyane Wade retiring (Wednesday), and I can't even tweet that out or be there," Johnson said. "Serena Williams called me a week ago and said, 'Will you mentor me and be on my advisory board?' And I said, 'Yeah, I'm going to do that.' So when Ben Simmons called and we went through the proper channels and they made me look like the bad guy out of that situation, but I didn't do anything wrong ... I was thinking about all those times, all those guys who want me to mentor them or be a part of their lives, and I can't even do that. I had more fun on the other side."

Johnson, who will turn 60 in August, also has many thriving business interests along with ownership stakes in the Los Angeles Dodgers and Los Angeles FC. □

LeBron, Carmelo, Chris Paul courtside for Wade's last game

NEW YORK (AP) — Dwyane Wade has some superstar fans on hand for his final NBA game.

LeBron James, Chris Paul and Carmelo Anthony were all sitting courtside in Brooklyn on Wednesday night to watch Miami's game against the Nets.

The four players are close friends and former teammates on the U.S. Olympic team. Wade went over to the corner where they were sitting and hugged each before starting his final game before retirement.

James told Fox Sports Sun that it was important for them to be there because their friendship goes beyond basketball.

"CP played last night, we had our last regular-season game last night and Melo's right here in New York so we kind of made the plan, made the decision to come up here," James said. "Listen, we couldn't miss D-Wade's last game. This is the last time he's going to be on an NBA floor wearing that Miami Heat uniform, that No. 3, so we're happy to be here to support." □



LeBron James, right, watches as Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) embraces Chris Paul at the Heat's NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks, Wednesday, April 10, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

Wade scores 30 in last game in Miami; Heat top 76ers 122-99

By The Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Dwyane Wade scored 30 points in the tribute-filled final home game of his career, and the Miami Heat defeated the Philadelphia 76ers 122-99 on Tuesday night.

Bam Adebayo scored 19, Justise Winslow scored 16 and Hassan Whiteside added 15 for the Heat, who were eliminated from play-off contention when Detroit beat Memphis — a result that went final during the third quarter of the Miami-Philly game.

Wade's career will end Wednesday in Brooklyn, when Miami plays its regular-season finale. He checked out for the last time with 1:02 left, embracing teammates and his son Zaire — who was on the Heat bench.

Greg Monroe scored 18 points and Ben Simmons scored 16 for Philadelphia, which entered Tuesday already locked into the No. 3 seed for the Eastern Conference playoffs and rested Joel Embiid and J.J. Redick. Simmons played only 21 minutes, Tobias Harris shot 3 for 16 in 20 minutes and Jimmy Butler scored only four points in 16 minutes.

MAVERICKS 120, SUNS 109

DALLAS (AP) — Dirk Nowitzki scored a season-high 30 points and Dallas celebrated the final home game of the 40-year-old's record 21st season with the same franchise. After the game, Nowitzki announced his retirement.

The 14-time All-Star had the first eight Dallas shots and scored his team's first 10 points in the first three minutes and passed his previous season high of 21 on a 3-pointer early in the third quarter.

Dallas' season finale, and possibly the career-ender for Nowitzki, is Wednesday night in San Antonio.

Jamal Crawford scored 51 points, one off his career high, in the season finale for the Suns (19-63). Phoenix had by far the worst record in the Western Conference in its fourth straight season with at least 58 losses.

Luca Doncic had his eighth triple-double with 21 points,



Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) shoots the ball in the first half of an NBA basketball game against Philadelphia 76ers guard Jimmy Butler (23) on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, in Miami.

Associated Press

16 rebounds and 11 assists.
TRAIL BLAZERS 104, LAKERS 101

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Maurice Harkless hit a corner 3-pointer at the buzzer, and Portland secured home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs with a win over Los Angeles, a few hours after Magic Johnson abruptly resigned as the Lakers' president of basketball operations.

Johnson shocked the Lakers with his announcement about 90 minutes before tipoff of the last game in the Lakers' sixth consecutive losing season. The Hall of Fame guard had been in charge of the Lakers for just 26 months, and his departure throws the 16-time NBA champion franchise's offseason into turmoil even before it began.

Harkless scored 26 points and Enes Kanter had 22 points and 16 rebounds while the Blazers rallied in the fourth quarter to claim their 52nd win of the season. Damian Lillard had 20 points and eight assists while the Blazers clinched at least a fourth-place finish in the conference and wrapped up home court for their first-round playoff series.

Portland has won 13 of 16 in its surge to a sixth consecutive playoff berth.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 32 points and Mike Muscala added 16 for the

Lakers, who have missed the playoffs in a franchise-record six consecutive seasons.

WARRIORS 112, PELICANS 103

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — DeMarcus Cousins had 21 points and 12 rebounds, and Golden State beat New Orleans in a game in which Warriors guard Stephen Curry left with a mild foot sprain.

The Warriors announced that Curry, who played the first nine minutes of the game, was held out the rest of the night as a precaution.

The game also likely marked the end of the Anthony Davis era in New Orleans. The disgruntled All-Star missed his seventh straight game with what the team has officially listed as back spasms. Damion Lee matched his career high with 20 points for Golden State. Former Pelican Quinn Cook scored 19 points.

Christian Wood had 26 points and 12 rebounds for the Pelicans, who lost 13 of their last 16 games. Jahlil Okafor scored 30 points and Ian Clark 20 for New Orleans.

PISTONS 100, GRIZZLIES 93

DETROIT (AP) — Andre Drummond had 20 points and 17 rebounds and Ish Smith matched a season high with 22 points, helping Detroit rally from a 22-point deficit.

Detroit can clinch a post-season bid by closing the regular season with a win Wednesday night at New York.

Detroit star Blake Griffin was limited to five points and two rebounds in 18-plus minutes, barely playing in the second half because of his injured left knee. Luke Kennard scored 15 points off the bench and Reggie Jackson had 12 points before going to the bench as Smith flourished in the final quarter.

Delon Wright and Bruno Caboclo each scored 15 points for the Grizzlies, who used just four reserves with banged-up players such as Mike Conley, Joakim Noah and rookie Jaren Jackson out with injuries.

JAZZ 118, NUGGETS 108

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Donovan Mitchell matched his career high with 46 points as Utah topped Denver.

Rudy Gobert had 20 points and 10 rebounds, Derrick Favors scored 16 points and Joe Ingles added 10 points and 13 assists as Utah won its last eight regular-season home games.

Malik Beasley scored 25 points to lead the Nuggets. Monte Morris added a season-high 22 points and Jamal Murray had 22. Gary Harris scored 15 points for Denver, which lost its second straight.

The Nuggets maintained a half-game lead over Hous-

ton Rockets, who lost 112-111 to Oklahoma City, in the race for the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference. Denver can secure the No. 2 spot with a win over Minnesota on Wednesday.

Utah finished in fifth place in the Western Conference.

THUNDER 112, ROCKETS 111

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Paul George hit the game-winning 3-pointer with 1.8 seconds left, and Oklahoma City rallied from 14 points down in the fourth quarter to beat Houston.

Russell Westbrook had 29 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists for his 33rd triple-double of the season and George added 27 points for the Thunder, who won their fourth straight.

Oklahoma City moved into sixth place in the Western Conference standings with one game remaining.

James Harden scored 39 points and Chris Paul added 24 for the Rockets, who slipped into the third spot in the conference standings.

RAPTORS 120, TIMBERWOLVES 100

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Kawhi Leonard scored 20 points and Toronto closed its regular season with a win over Minnesota.

Fred VanVleet scored 16 points, and Chris Boucher had a career-high 15 points and 13 rebounds off the bench for the Raptors, who finished the regular season at 58-24.

Andrew Wiggins and Gorgui Dieng each scored 16 points for the Timberwolves, who played without All-Star center Karl-Anthony Towns. **KNICKS 96, BULLS 86**

CHICAGO (AP) — Dennis Smith Jr. scored 25 points, Mitchell Robinson added eight points and 17 rebounds and New York escaped the possibility of finishing with its worst-ever record by winning back-to-back games for the first time since February.

With one game remaining, the Knicks (17-64) can only tie for the worst season in franchise history. A loss to the Detroit Pistons, who are seeking to lock up a playoff spot, would give New York a record matching only its ugly 2014-15 campaign. □

Angels beat Brewers 11-8 after Trout leaves with injury

By The Associated Press
ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Tommy La Stella homered twice and drove in four runs, and the Los Angeles Angels beat the Milwaukee Brewers 11-8 on Tuesday after Mike Trout departed with a groin injury. Los Angeles extended its win streak to five games. Jonathan Lucroy had two hits and three RBIs against his first major league team. Trout left in the fourth inning after he strained his right groin while sliding into second base in the second. The Angels say their \$426.5 million center fielder is day to day.

Cam Bedrosian (1-0) pitched a scoreless inning for the win and Cody Allen got three outs for his third save.

Yasmani Grandal homered twice and drove in three runs for Milwaukee. Alex Wilson (1-1) got the loss.

BLUE JAYS 7, RED SOX 5 BOSTON (AP) — Chris Sale let a Toronto runner steal home, Mookie Betts fanned with two on for the final out and the Red Sox stumbled again, losing to the Blue Jays in their home opener. After receiving their World Series rings, the Red Sox fell to 3-9. A return to Fenway Park failed to shake the doldrums that plagued Boston during a season-opening trip to Seattle, Oakland and Arizona.

Red Sox sparkplug Dustin Pedroia went 1 for 4 in his first major league game since May. He played only three times last year while slowed by a knee injury. It was the first big league matchup of managers born in Puerto Rico, with



Los Angeles Angels' Tommy La Stella watches his home run during the fourth inning of the team's baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers, Tuesday, April 9, 2019, in Anaheim, Calif.

Toronto's Charlie Montoyo topping Boston's Alex Cora. Toronto ended a four-game losing streak. Freddy Galvis drove in two runs to back Matt Shoemaker (3-0), who allowed two earned runs in 5 2/3 innings. Sale (0-3) surrendered five runs and seven hits before being pulled after four innings.

ASTROS 6, YANKEES 3 HOUSTON (AP) — José Altuve hit his 100th homer and George Springer's two-run double in the eighth inning helped the Astros to their third straight comeback win. Houston has won five in a row overall to improve to 7-5. The Astros trailed by one when Alex Bregman doubled off Jonathan Holder with two out in the seventh inning and scored on a double by Michael Brant-

ley that tied it at 3. Chad Green (0-2) retired Carlos Correa to end the inning. But the Astros, who rallied to beat Oakland on Sunday and New York in Monday's series opener, got another clutch hit from Springer in the eighth. Héctor Rondón (1-0) got the win and Roberto Osuna fanned one in a perfect ninth for his fourth save.

MARINERS 6, ROYALS 3 KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Dee Gordon got three hits and drove in two runs as high-scoring Seattle extended baseball's best record. The Mariners improved to 11-2 and have scored at least five runs in 12 of those games. The Royals lost their eighth in a row. Whit Merrifield extended his hitting streak to 30 games, tying a Royals record set by George Brett in 1980. He

led off the bottom of the first with an opposite-field triple to stretch a streak that began last Sept. 10 and included the final 20 games of the season. Marco Gonzales (4-0) gave up two earned runs in six-plus innings. Anthony Swarzak pitched the ninth for his second save in two opportunities.

Kansas City's Jakob Junis (1-1) allowed four runs in four innings.

INDIANS 8, TIGERS 2 DETROIT (AP) — Corey Kluber earned his first win of the season in his third start, powered by four Cleveland home runs. The Indians won their fifth straight game. Detroit had won five in a row. Kluber (1-2) allowed one earned run over six innings. A two-time Cy Young Award winner who went 20-7 last season, he struck

out eight. Leonys Martín, Brad Miller, Roberto Perez and Jake Bauers all entered with sub-.200 batting averages before hitting their first homers of the season. Cleveland had hit a total of only four home runs this year before connecting at Comerica Park.

Detroit's Jordan Zimmermann (0-1) gave up five runs and was chased in the fifth inning.

ATHLETICS 13, ORIOLES 2 BALTIMORE (AP) — Jurickson Profar got four hits and drove in a career-high five runs, helping Oakland stop a four-game slide.

Slumping Orioles slugger Chris Davis didn't play, a day after he set the major league record for the longest hitless streak by a position player at 0 for 49.

Profar and Marcus Semien homered as the A's won on the road for the first time in five tries this season. Center fielder Ramón Laureano threw out another runner, and Brett Anderson (3-0) won his third straight start. Trey Mancini singled in the first and has reached safely in all 11 games for the Orioles, who have dropped five of their last six. John Means (1-1) got the loss.

RAYS 10, WHITE SOX 5 CHICAGO (AP) — Austin Meadows homered and set a career high with four hits, powering Tampa Bay to the win. The Rays pounded Ervin Santana (0-1) and improved to 9-3, their best start in nine years. They also extended a club record by clinching their fourth straight series victory to start a season. □

Experiments with robot umps, longer mound distance delayed

NEW YORK (AP) — Robot umpires will get some more warmup time. Major League Baseball and the Atlantic League said Wednesday the experiment with radar-tracking technology to call balls and strikes will not be used when the independent minor league starts play on April 25. Instead, the technology "will be implemented gradually over the course of the 2019 season."

No date for the start was announced. Plate umpires will wear earpieces and be informed of ball and strike calls by a TrackMan computer system that uses Doppler radar. Umps will have the ability to override the computer, which considers a pitch a strike when the ball bounces and then crosses the zone. TrackMan also does not

evaluate check swings. A second test also was pushed back: extending the distance between the pitching rubber and home plate by 2 feet to 62½ feet. Originally scheduled to start after this year's All-Star break, the distance change was put off until the second half of 2020. "These changes reflect a joint desire that the upcoming technology upgrades at ALPB ballparks

be fully installed and calibrated prior to implementation of these experimental playing rules," MLB and the Atlantic League said in a joint statement. Atlantic League teams are in Bridgewater, New Jersey; Central Islip, New York; High Point, North Carolina; Lancaster, Pennsylvania; New Britain, Connecticut; Sugar Land, Texas; Waldorf, Maryland; and York, Pennsylvania. □

Soto's 3-run shot in 10th lifts Nats over Phils 10-6

By The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Juan Soto hit a three-run homer in the 10th inning, and Washington rallied for the win.

Philadelphia's Bryce Harper crushed a three-run homer off former teammate Stephen Strasburg, but Victor Robles tied it at 6 on a solo shot off Edubray Ramos with two outs and two strikes in the ninth.

Ramos hadn't pitched in six days and has one career save but Phillies manager Gabe Kapler brought him in to protect a one-run lead.

Brian Dozier and Anthony Rendon hit consecutive singles off Jose Alvarez (0-1) to start the 10th and Soto followed with a towering shot over the right field foul pole. A video review upheld the fair call. Robles added an RBI double in the inning. Sean Doolittle (3-0) got five outs for the win.

TWINS 14, METS 8

NEW YORK (AP) — Jacob deGrom's record-tying streak of quality starts ended at 26 when he allowed two home runs to Mitch Garver and one to Eddie Rosario in a drubbing by the Twins.

Minnesota had six homers, including a pair by Jonathan Schoop. The Mets hit four of their own, two by rookie Pete Alonso, as the teams combined for the most home runs in a game at Citi Field, which opened a decade ago.

DeGrom (2-1) gave up three homers and was lifted for a pinch hitter in the fourth inning after allowing six runs and eight hits.

Kyle Gibson was in position to win but was removed after 4 2/3 innings for the second straight start. He loaded the bases with a pair of two-out walks, and Trevor Hildenberger (2-0) retired Jeff McNeil on a flyout.

CARDINALS 4, DODGERS 0

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Yadier Molina drove in three runs, Paul Goldschmidt homered and the Cardinals beat the Dodgers despite an embarrassing play by Marcell Ozuna.

St. Louis already had a 4-0 lead when Kiké Hernán-

dez led off the eighth with a drive to left. Ozuna went back and climbed up the wall, but he misjudged the

Swanson and Ronald Acuña Jr. homered, leading Max Fried and the Braves to the victory.

high for runs, one night after blowing a five-run lead with ace Madison Bumgarner on the mound.

time since opening day.

The Reds were missing outfielder Yasiel Puig and manager David Bell, suspended for their part in a fracas in Pittsburgh on Sunday. Puig decided to serve his two-game suspension rather than appeal. Bell got a one-game punishment, and bench coach Freddie Benavides took his place for the series opener.

Cincinnati's Luis Castillo (1-1) struck out eight in seven innings.

Miami right-hander José Ureña allowed four runs and eight hits in five innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, RANGERS 4

PHOENIX (AP) — Jarrod Dyson connected for a two-run homer in the ninth inning, lifting the Diamondbacks to the win.

Dyson, batting for John Ryan Murphy with Eduardo Escobar on second base, drove a 2-2 pitch from Jose Leclerc into the seats in right field. Arizona rallied from a 4-0 deficit after two innings for its third win in four games.

Matt Andriese (2-0) pitched two innings of scoreless ball in relief of Zack Greinke. Murphy and Nick Ahmed hit solo home runs for the Diamondbacks.

Down 4-2 in the ninth, the Diamondbacks' Christian Walker led off with a single against Leclerc (1-1), who blew a save chance for the first time this season. Escobar doubled in Walker and Ahmed struck out before Dyson went deep. □



Washington Nationals' Juan Soto hits a three-run home run during the 10th inning of the team's baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies, Tuesday, April 9, 2019, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

ball and tumbled onto the warning track as he tried to make the play. Hernandez's drive bounced over for a ground-rule double, but Mike Mayers and Andrew Miller managed to escape the threat.

Six St. Louis pitchers combined for a seven-hitter. The Dodgers stranded 13 runners and struck out 10 times.

John Brebbia (1-0) pitched 1 1/3 innings for the win. Los Angeles dropped consecutive games for the first time this season. Ross Stripling (0-1) got the loss.

BRAVES 7, ROCKIES 1

DENVER (AP) — Dansby

Fried (2-0) allowed an unearned run and five hits in six innings.

Colorado has dropped its first five home games. It has lost nine of 10 overall since winning the first two games of the season.

Rockies right-hander German Márquez (1-1) was charged with five runs and seven hits in five innings.

GIANTS 7, PADRES 2

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Kevin Pillar drove in four runs for San Francisco for the second straight game, and Evan Longoria broke out of a long slump with an RBI single.

The Giants set a season

San Francisco left-hander Derek Holland (1-1) struck out nine in seven crisp innings.

Hunter Renfroe homered for San Diego, and Manny Machado walked twice. Joey Lucchesi (2-1) was tagged for seven runs in four innings.

REDS 14, MARLINS 0

CINCINNATI (AP) — Matt Kemp started Cincinnati's spree of three consecutive homers, and the Reds stopped their eight-game losing streak after their manager and an outfielder were suspended.

The Reds hit five homers in all as they won for the first



Spieth hopeful Masters memories can help him end slump

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Tiger Woods is a winner again, making him even more appealing at the Masters.

"I've worked my way back into one of the players that can win events," he said.

Rory McIlroy is the betting favorite — perhaps even the sentimental favorite. Facing a fifth chance at completing the career Grand Slam at Augusta National, he has never started a year as well as this one. McIlroy won The Players Championship, played in the final group in three other events and has yet to finish out of the top 10 in his seven PGA Tour events.

"I'm happy with where everything is — body, mind, game," McIlroy said.

Such words sound as soothing to Jordan Spieth as birds nestled in the Georgia pines. Any other year, Spieth would be a big part of the conversation when the 83rd Masters Tournament begins on Thursday.

"I don't feel like there's any added pressure this week," Spieth said. "I feel kind of under the radar, which is really nice."

Maybe not for long.

Not since Woods has any young golfer established himself as a master at Augusta National. In five appearances, starting with then 20-year-old Spieth's runner-up finish in his Masters debut, he has a green jacket, a share of the tournament scoring record, two silver medals for second place and a near historic closing round last year until he clipped a tree with his tee shot on the 18th hole, made bogey and had to settle for a 64.

His worst finish was a tie for 11th in 2017, and even then, he started the final

behind the winner, except for the three times he missed the cut.

couple days in the tee-to-green game. It's just a matter of trust in the stuff that

had to figure out why I did them and how to train it back."

Augusta awaits.

McIlroy is among the top five players in the world who have a chance to leave the Masters with a green jacket and the No. 1 ranking. For such a small field — 87 players, six of them amateurs — the tournament is wide open. It's been that way for years.

The difference is that Spieth usually could be counted on to be part of that mix. And he might be again.

"I feel I'm on the rise right now. That's just the way I feel," Spieth said. "I don't think I need results to prove anything otherwise. I know where my game is at and I know that good things are coming soon."

But there are far more whispers that this slump is not anything four days — or two — at Augusta National can cure; or that he'll never play as well as his 2015 season at age 21 — winning the Masters and U.S. Open, missing the British Open playoff by one shot and finishing second at the PGA Championship.

"It's frustrating to watch from this side everything that's being said and written about him, because I know he's close," Justin Thomas said. "He's going to play well this week. I really do think that. He's shown strides all year. Just hasn't been able to put it all together over the course of four days. But I would say his record at this course speaks for itself. ... But the thing about this game is you have to let it happen." There's no better time than now, no better course than this one. □



Jordan Spieth hits from the bunker to the second green during his practice round for the Masters at Augusta National Golf Club on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

round just two shots behind. No wonder he calls the Masters "my favorite tournament in the whole world."

That's what makes this year so intriguing for Spieth.

The next big thing in golf when he won the British Open two years ago for the third leg of the Grand Slam, the 25-year-old Texan is now in one big slump.

He hasn't won since. He hasn't finished in the top 10 in his last 15 tournaments, and even more jarring is that he has finished an average of just over 14 shots

It would figure that if any golf course could cure whatever is ailing him, it would be Augusta National.

Spieth is exuding patience, if not confidence.

"My expectations are high this week. I feel great about the state of my game right now," said Spieth, coming off a 73-72 weekend in the Texas Open that took him from a tie for second to a tie for 30th. "I feel like my recent results aren't a tell of where my game is actually at, and I feel I've made a lot of strides in the last

I'm working on, and I don't feel like I have to play well." He is climbing out of a hole, and either the way out is taking longer than he would have thought, or the hole was deeper than he ever imagined.

Most telling was what Spieth said at the start of the year, when he returned from two-month break that included his wedding.

"I almost took ignorance as bliss in a lot of parts of my game," he said. "I did things well, but I didn't know why. I just did them. Then they got off, and so I

Masters Notebook: Matt Wallace wins par-3 contest

By **TIM DAHLBERG**
AP Sports Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Matt Wallace won the par-3 contest at Augusta National by aching the eighth hole and winning a three-hole playoff with 61-year-old Sandy Lyle.

Wallace's hole-in-one was one of four in Wednesday's family-friendly event that precedes the

Masters, leaving him tied with Lyle at 5-under 22. The playoff rotated between Nos. 8 and 9, with both players making par on the first two holes. That took them back to the eighth, where Wallace nearly made another hole-it-one, plopping his tee shot less than a foot from the cup.

Lyle knocked his shot in the water,

handing the victory to the 28-year-old Englishman playing in his first Masters. He is the ninth player — and the first since 2013 — to win the par-3 contest on his initial try.

But also worth noting: No winner of the par-3 has gone on to capture the green jacket.

Lyle, the 1988 champion, is playing in his 38th Masters. It was initially

thought he had won the par-3 tournament, but officials discovered a scoring error that forced the playoff.

In all, there were four aces on the day, including Shane Lowry at No. 2, Mark O'Meara on No. 5 and Devon Bling at No. 7. Wallace's hole-in-one was the 100th since the contest began in 1960. □

French marathon runner Calvin suspended in doping case

By **SAMUEL PETREQUIN**

AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — European marathon silver medalist Clemence Calvin was provisionally suspended by the French anti-doping agency on Wednesday for allegedly obstructing a doping test last month in Morocco.

Calvin denies any wrongdoing and claims she was brutalized by testers who pretended to be police officers when she was briefly stopped in the city of Marrakech on March 27.

Calvin, who did not get tested after the altercation, has filed a lawsuit in Morocco against the testers for violence and threats.

The French anti-doping agency's secretary general, Mathieu Teoran, denied Calvin's allegations that the agents were violent and did not identify themselves as sample collectors. Calvin was in Morocco with her husband — the athlete Samir Dahmani — to train for this Sunday's Paris Marathon. Her lawyers said they will ask the Council of State — France's highest administrative court — for an urgent ruling to have the ban lifted. "It's been 12 years that I have been a top-level athlete," Calvin said during the news conference. "I never had any problem with the AFLD. What I went through on March 27 was everything but a test. It was very violent."

The 28-year-old athlete, who finished second in the



Silver medalist in the women's marathon at the European Athletics Championships in Berlin, France's Clemence Calvin addresses reporters during a media conference in Paris Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

marathon at the 2018 European championships in Berlin, said she had just retrieved her son at the kin-

dergarten when the incident happened.

"We had a walk in the neighborhood, my hus-

band went to buy a cake for my son's birthday," she said. "I was in the street, playing with kids. Some

people arrived and took me by the arm, saying: 'French police, where is Dahmani?'"

According to Calvin, she led them to Dahmani and one of the three persons hit her on the arm as she was handing her 2-year-old child over to her husband. "My little one fell on the floor and started to cry," she said. "My husband started to argue with these people while I stepped back."

Calvin said the family then went to a pharmacy to have their son checked and went back to their place around midnight after dinner. She insisted that the people who stopped her in the street never identified themselves as testers. Lawyer Arnaud Pericard said Calvin — in addition to the obstruction that led to her provisional suspension — was also notified by the AFLD of a "no-show" for missing a doping test at her place after 8 p.m. the same day. Pericard said he has gathered testimonies from Calvin's neighbors in Marrakech that people presenting themselves as French police officers knocked on their doors in the evening as they tried to locate the couple.

Under the whereabouts rules, athletes must make themselves available for out-of-competition testing for one hour every day and face suspensions if they miss three tests over a period of 12 months. □

Associated Press

NHL PLAYOFFS

Continued from Page 17

365 — Shots by Avalanche forward Nathan MacKinnon, who led the league. 325 — Goals scored by Tampa Bay, the most by a team in 23 years. 246 — Shots by Tampa Bay forward Nikita Kucherov, who led the league in points with 128. 97 — Amount of hat tricks this season. It's tied for 11th-most in NHL history. 2 — Wins by the Lightning, tying the '95-96 Red Wings for most in a season. 49 — Percent of games decided in regulation by

a one-goal margin or two with an empty-netter.

35-4-1 — Record when the Nashville Predators scored the first goal of the game this season. 33 — Age of Alex Ovechkin, who became the first player in 44 years to lead the NHL in goals at age 33 or older. The last one to do so was Phil Esposito, who had 61 at 33 in 1974-75.

22-14 — Margin Vegas outscored San Jose in a second-round matchup last season before the Golden Knights advanced. 18-10 — Margin Vegas outscored

first-round opponent San Jose in the regular season. 21 — Times out of 27 seasons the Sharks have reached the postseason since coming into the league in '91-92. 16 — Game-winning playoff goals for 39-year-old Toronto forward Patrick Marleau. 12 — Years since the league had six players reach 100 points. The list includes three players in the postseason: Kucherov, Brad Marchand of Boston and Sidney Crosby of Pittsburgh. Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl of Edmonton and Patrick Kane of Chicago were the other three. □



Dallas Stars goaltender Ben Bishop (30) deflects a shot by the Minnesota Wild in the third period of an NHL hockey game Saturday, April 6, 2019, in Dallas.

Associated Press

Democrats want feds to target the 'black box' of AI bias

By **MATT O'BRIEN**
AP Technology Writer

Congress is starting to show interest in prying open the "black box" of tech companies' artificial intelligence with oversight that parallels how the federal government checks under car hoods and audits banks.

One proposal introduced Wednesday and co-sponsored by a Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Cory Booker, would require big companies to test the "algorithmic accountability" of their high-risk AI systems, such as technology that detects faces or makes important decisions based on your most sensitive personal data.

"Computers are increasingly involved in so many of the key decisions Americans make with respect to their daily lives — whether somebody can buy a home, get a job or even go to jail," Sen. Ron Wyden said in an interview with The Associated Press. The Oregon Democrat is co-sponsoring the bill.

"When the companies really go into this, they're going to be looking for bias in their systems," Wyden said. "I think they're going to be finding a lot."

The Democrats' proposal is the first of its kind, and may face an uphill battle in the Republican-led Senate. But it reflects growing — and bipartisan — scrutiny of the



In this Feb. 9, 2019, file photo, Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., is seen on a cell phone as he speaks during a meet and greet with local residents in Marshalltown, Iowa. In this Feb. 9, 2019, file photo, Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., is seen on a cell phone as he speaks during a meet and greet with local residents in Marshalltown, Iowa.

largely unregulated data economy — everything from social media feeds, online data brokerages, financial algorithms and self-driving software that are increasingly impacting daily life. A bipartisan Senate bill introduced last month would require companies to notify people before using facial recognition software on them, while also requiring third-party testing to check for bias problems. Academic studies and real-life examples have unearthed facial recognition systems that misidentify darker-skinned women,

computerized lending tools that charge higher interest rates to Latino and black borrowers, and job recruitment tools that favor men in industries where they already dominate.

"There's this myth that algorithms are these neutral, objective things," said Aaron Rieke, managing director at advocacy group Upturn. "Machine learning picks up patterns in society — who does what, who buys what, or who has what job. Those are patterns shaped by issues we've been struggling with for decades."

President Donald Trump's

administration is also taking notice and has made the development of "safe and trustworthy" algorithms a major objective of the White House's new AI initiative. But it would do so mostly by strengthening an existing industry-driven process of creating technological standards.

"There's a need for greater transparency and data comparability," and for detecting and reducing bias in these systems, said Commerce Undersecretary Walter Copan, who directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Associated Press

"Consumers are essentially flying blind."

Dozens of facial recognition developers, including brand-name companies like Microsoft, last year submitted their proprietary algorithms to Copan's agency so that they could be evaluated and compared against each other. The results showed significant gains in accuracy over previous years. "Self-regulation clearly has failed here," he said. In a bolder move from the Trump administration, the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development has charged Facebook with allowing landlords and real estate brokers to systematically exclude groups such as non-Christians, immigrants and minorities from seeing ads for houses and apartments.

Booker, in a statement about his bill, said that while HUD's Facebook action is an important step, it's necessary to dig deeper to address the "pernicious ways" discrimination operates on tech platforms, sometimes unintentionally.

Booker said biased algorithms are causing the same kind of discriminatory real estate practices that sought to steer his New Jersey parents and other black couples away from certain U.S. neighborhoods in the late 1960s. This time, he said, it's harder to detect and fight. □



In this Jan. 9, 2019, file photo, media and guests tour Facebook offices in Cambridge, Mass., building. Facebook says it is rolling out a wide range of updates aimed at combatting the spread of false and harmful information on the social media site.

Associated Press

Facebook cracks down on groups spreading harmful information

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY** and **RACHEL LERMAN**
AP Technology Writers

MENLO PARK, Calif. (AP) — Facebook said Wednesday it is rolling out a wide range of updates aimed at combatting the spread of false and harmful information on the social media site — stepping up the company's fight against misinformation as it faces growing outside pressure.

The updates will limit the visibility of links found to be significantly more prominent on Facebook than across the web as a whole. The company is also expanding its fact-checking program with outside expert sources, including The Associated Press, to vet videos and other material posted on Facebook.

Facebook groups — the online communities that many point to as lightning rods for the spread of fake information — will also be more closely monitored. If they are found to be spreading misinformation, their visibility in users' news feeds will be limited.

Lawmakers and human rights groups have been critical of the company for the spread of extremism and misinformation on its flagship site and on Instagram.

During a larger hearing Tuesday on the spread of white nationalism, congress members questioned a company representative about how Facebook prevents violent material from being uploaded and shared on the site. □

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Uneasy about the economy, some businesses hold off on hiring

NEW YORK (AP) — Samantha Martin does most of the annual hiring for her public relations firm in the first quarter. But not this year — clients worried about a slowing economy are cutting their budgets, and Martin has in turn scaled back her own plans.

"Our clients are having trouble getting funding and therefore public relations and marketing are the first to get cut," says Martin, owner of New York-based Media Maison.

If Martin's firm has more work than her current staff can handle, she'll hire freelancers who work by the hour. Hiring on a project-by-project basis removes the potential of having to lay anyone off.

Small business owners who are uneasy as they see signs of a weakening economy have cut back on hiring in recent months and found ways to get work done without adding employees. The latest evidence of a hiring slowdown came last week, when payroll provider ADP said its small business customers created just 6,000 jobs in March. February's tally of 19,000 new jobs was also weak and down sharply from January's 98,000; ADP's small business numbers also fluctuated throughout 2018. The report, as well as the most recent jobs report from the Labor Department, clearly shows that small business hiring has lagged behind



In this Thursday, April 4, 2019, photo Kaben Clauson, poses for a photo t at his TruePublic office in Chicago.

Associated Press

job creation at larger companies. Small business owners, especially those who learned hard lessons from the Great Recession about overstaffing, are playing it safe. While a Capital One survey also released last week showed that 29% of 500 small business owners planned to hire in the next six months, that was down from 33% in a survey six months earlier. Of the owners who don't plan to hire, nearly 30% said the economy is making them too nervous to spend more on staffing. The Capital One survey was in line with other surveys taken during the first quarter.

The economy is widely expected to slow this year, starting with the recently ended first quarter. Economists surveyed by financial information provider FactSet estimate that gross domestic product grew at an annual rate of 1.6% from January through March, down from 2.9% in all of 2018.

TruePublic's last four hires were part-timers. CEO Kaben Clauson had planned on taking on full-time staffers, but partly because of the economy decided against the added risk. "We could hire those people full time now — we have the money to do so — but it would give us only six

months of a cash cushion," says Kaben, whose Chicago-based company conducts online surveys. "We'd feel more comfortable with a year's cushion."

Clauson's concern is linked to the hesitancy he sees in investors who start hunkering down because of stock market volatility or signs of economic weakness.

"My company is raising another \$2 million and we're looking for investors," Kaben says. "Who's knows what happens with the economy going forward?" Before the recession, the philosophy at many companies was to hire in anticipation of higher revenue. Now, the approach is to

put off hiring until rising revenue justifies taking on the added expense and risk. Many owners like Martin hire independent contractors, or freelancers, if there's more work than their regular employees can handle. "They have a much finer gauge on how to accomplish what they need to without layering in a lot of expense," says Steve Spinelli, the incoming president of Babson College and an entrepreneur himself. Owners have also adopted technology that helps them get their work done, so there is less pressure on their companies to hire, Spinelli says.

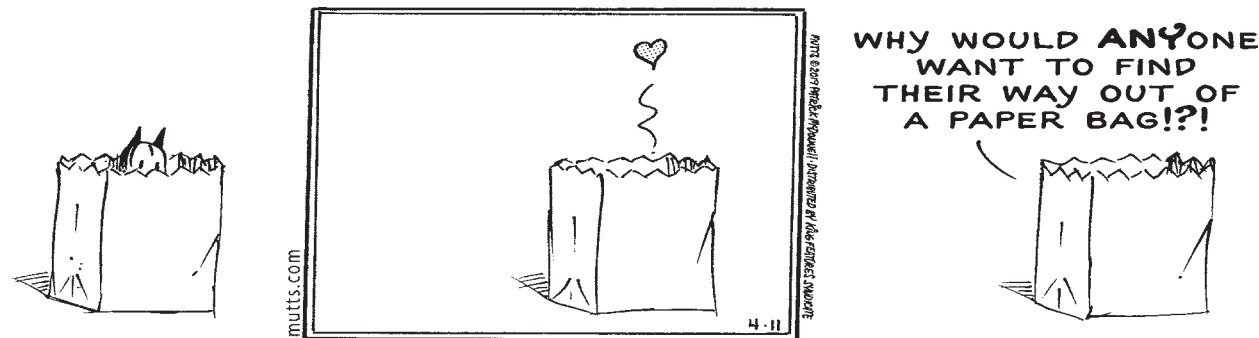
"You have a healthier small business community, a more nimble small business community and one that's more forward looking," Spinelli says.

After Greg Henson's technology services company was forced to lay off half its staff during the Great Recession, he restructured the business so approximately 50% of The Henson Group's workers are freelancers. He has the flexibility of calling them in for projects as needed, and doesn't have fears of another mass lay-off.

Henson is also concerned about the economy, and has contracted with another company to handle some of his sales work.

"We have frozen hiring until we know what's happening," he says. □

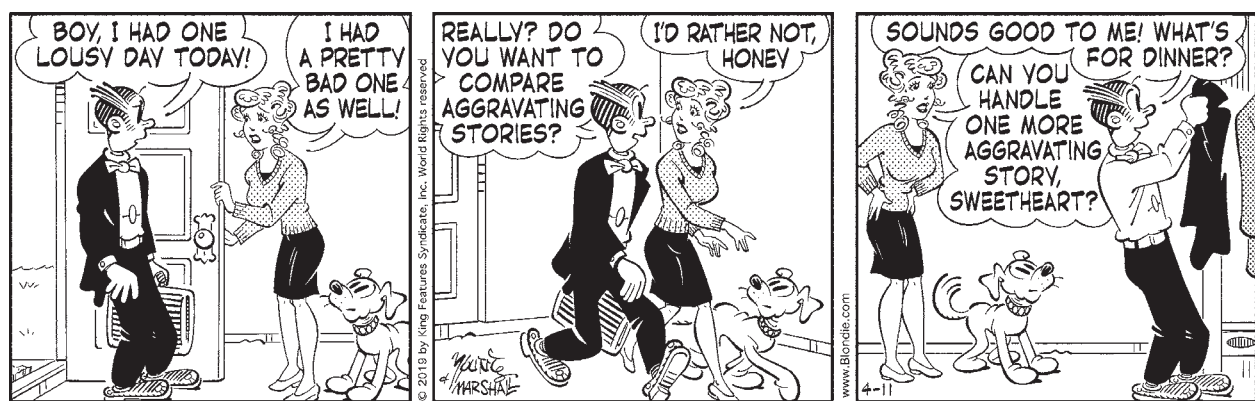
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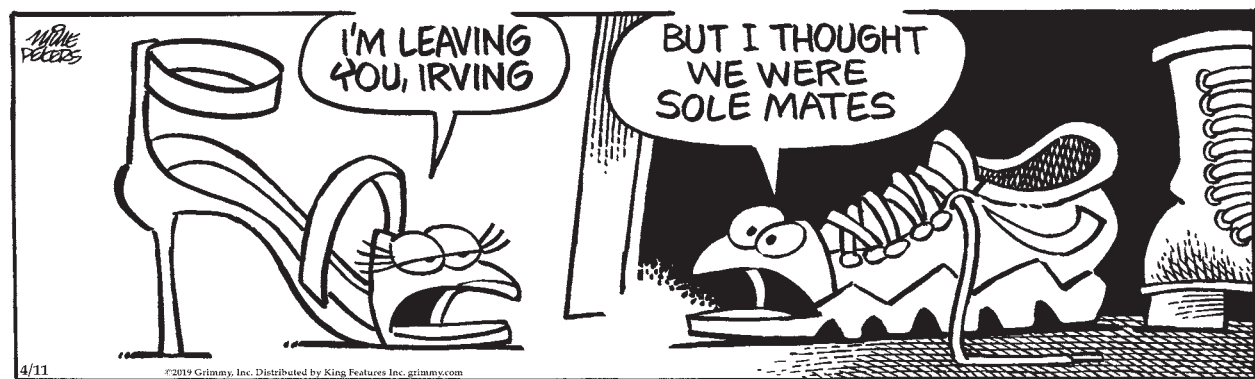
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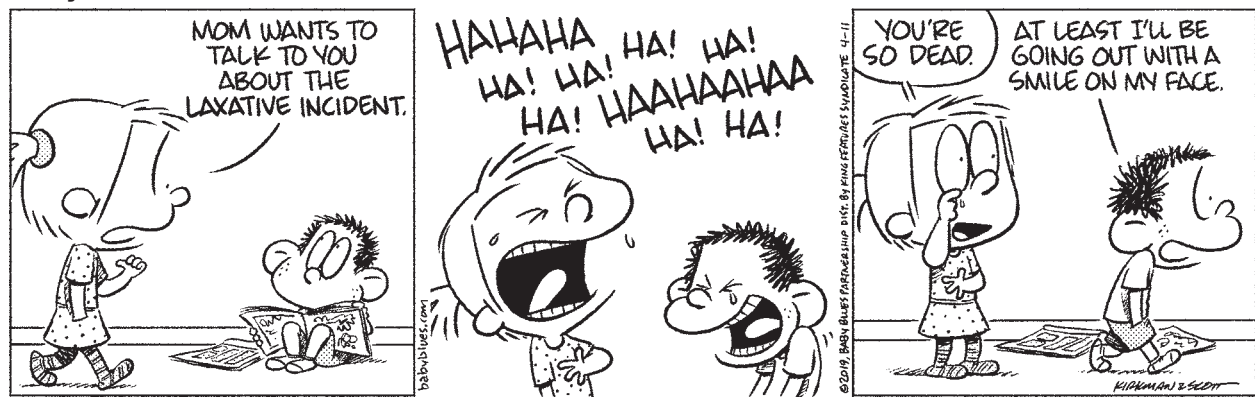
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	8		9			6		
	9			4	1		5	3
4								
	1							9
	6			5			7	
2							4	
								1
3	5		8	7			6	
		2			6		9	

Difficulty Level ★★

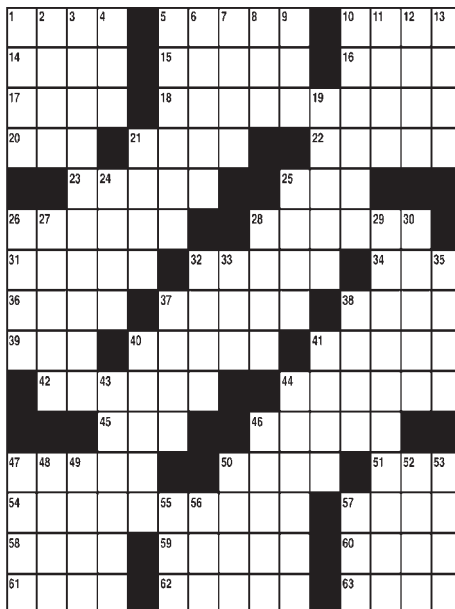
4/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer	2	8	4	3	1	7	5	6	9
	5	6	7	8	9	2	1	3	4
	1	3	9	4	5	6	7	2	8
	8	4	5	2	6	1	3	9	7
	6	7	2	9	3	5	4	8	1
	3	9	1	7	8	4	2	5	6
	7	5	3	6	4	8	9	1	2
	4	1	8	5	2	9	6	7	3
	9	2	6	1	7	3	8	4	5

ACROSS

- 1 Airhead
- 5 Greek letter
- 10 Reverberate
- 14 Items in a rowboat
- 15 Peace Prize
- 16 No-; absentee
- 17 Small slip of paper
- 18 Compliance; obedience
- 20 Source of light & heat
- 21 Hounds & hamsters
- 22 Breaks into another's PC
- 23 Fabric
- 25 Rogers or Clark
- 26 Bed linens
- 28 Largest city in Poland
- 31 Desert refuge
- 32 Earn; deserve
- 34 Tart
- 36 Complain childishly
- 37 Moe
- 38 Nimble
- 39 Gobbled up
- 40 Expand
- 41 Shopper's binge
- 42 Flea
- 44 Horses
- 45 Want; newspaper section
- 46 away; amazed
- 47 Long look
- 50 Snare
- 51 Ref.'s decision
- 54 Freedom
- 57 Benevolent
- 58 Circle portions
- 59 Send in payment
- 60 Frosted
- 61 Mrs. Truman
- 62 over; faints
- 63 Kitten cries



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/11/19

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

RASH	CROP	ETTE
OSHER	LINE	SHOO
THERE	OPERATION	
EYE	COT	SLANTS
TEENS	POT	
ARMADA	SIN	NEWS
LOUSE	SCORE	HAD
POST	CAINE	VILE
SKI	SANDS	SERVE
SCRUBS	DEALER	
OIL	HILLY	
ASTUTE	ODD	BAN
CLOSECALL	OLIVE	
TAME	AGED	MERIT
SWED	ROTS	ADDS

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4/11/19

DOWN

- 1 MIDs, familiarly
- 2 Pearl Harbor's location
- 3 Beatrice, Eugenie & Charlotte

- 38 Gush forth
- 40 One who gets his feet wet
- 41 Discontinue
- 43 Hug
- 44 Inclines
- 46 Cook on a grill
- 47 Piece of concrete
- 48 Grow weary
- 49 Basics
- 50 Magazine title
- 52 Recognized
- 53 At; arguing
- 55 Noah's craft
- 56 Golf ball holder
- 57 One of the Kardashians



Members of Four Paws International, an animal welfare group, check on the animals at Erez crossing on the Israel and Gaza border, Sunday, April 7, 2019.

Associated Press

Dozens of neglected animals evacuated from Gaza zoo

By **FARES AKRAM**
Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)

— Dozens of neglected animals were evacuated from a ramshackle Gaza zoo on Sunday in the fourth and largest such rescue mission in the blockaded Palestinian enclave.

Vets and volunteers from Four Paws International transported some 40 animals into Israel from the neglected zoo in the southern town of Rafah. The animals, including lions, foxes, monkeys, pelicans, wolves and ostriches, will be resettled in

sanctuaries in Jordan and South Africa.

"The zoo has been in a bad situation in recent years due to economic and political turmoil," said Amir Khalil, a veterinarian from the Vienna-based organization. "Most of the animals had a sort of traumatization." Many of the animals were smuggled into Gaza via tunnels beneath the southern border with Egypt, which along with Israel has blockaded the territory since the Hamas militant group seized power there in 2007. □

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2 BR Ocean Side \$ 9 K
3 BR Ocean View \$13 K

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Science fact: Astronomers reveal first image of a black hole

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Humanity got its first glimpse Wednesday of the cosmic place of no return: a black hole.

And it's as hot, as violent and as beautiful as science fiction imagined.

In a breakthrough that thrilled the world of astrophysics and stirred talk of a Nobel Prize, scientists released the first image ever made of a black hole, revealing a fiery doughnut-shaped object in a galaxy 53 million light-years from Earth.

"Science fiction has become science fact," University of Waterloo theoretical physicist Avery Broderick, one of the leaders of the research team of about 200 scientists from 20 countries, declared as the colorized orange-and-black picture was unveiled. The image, assembled from data gathered by eight radio telescopes around the world, shows light and gas swirling around the lip of a supermassive black hole, a monster of the universe whose existence was theorized by Einstein more than a century ago but confirmed only indirectly over the decades.

Supermassive black holes are situated at the center of most galaxies, including ours, and are so dense that nothing, not even light, can escape their gravitational pull. Light gets bent and twisted around by gravity in a bizarre funhouse effect as it gets sucked into the abyss along with superheated gas and dust.

The new image confirmed yet another piece of Einstein's general theory of relativity. Einstein even predicted the object's neatly symmetrical shape.



This April 4, 2019, photo, provided by Maunakea Observatories shows the Submillimeter Array, part of the Event Horizon Telescope network on the summit of Mauna Kea, Hawaii.

"We have seen what we thought was unseeable. We have seen and taken a picture of a black hole," announced Sheperd Doelman of Harvard, leader of the project.

Jessica Dempsey, another co-discoverer and deputy director of the East Asian Observatory in Hawaii, said the fiery circle reminded her of the flaming Eye of Sauron from the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

Three years ago, scientists using an extraordinarily sensitive observing system heard the sound of two much smaller black holes merging to create a gravitational wave, as Einstein

predicted. The new image, published in the *Astrophysical Journal Letters* and announced around the world, adds light to that sound.

Outside scientists suggested the achievement could be worthy of a Nobel, just like the gravitational wave discovery. "I think it looks very convincing," said Andrea Ghez, director of the UCLA Galactic Center Group, who wasn't part of the discovery team.

The picture was made with equipment that detects wavelengths invisible to the human eye, so astronomers added color to convey the ferocious heat of the gas and dust, glowing at a temperature of perhaps millions of degrees. But if a person were to somehow get close to this black hole, it might not look quite like that, astronomers said.

The black hole is about 6 billion times the mass of our sun and is in a galaxy called M87. Its "event horizon" — the precipice, or point of no return where light and matter get sucked inexorably

into the hole — is as big as our entire solar system.

Black holes are the "most extreme environment in the known universe," Broderick said, a violent, churning place of "gravity run amok." Unlike smaller black holes, which come from collapsed stars, supermassive black holes are mysterious in origin.

Despite decades of study, there are a few holdouts who deny black holes exist, and this work shows that they do, said Boston University astronomer professor Alan Marscher, a co-discoverer.

The project cost \$50 million to \$60 million, with \$28 million of that coming from the National Science Foundation. The same team has gathered even more data on a black hole in the center of our own Milky Way galaxy, but scientists said the object is so jumpy they don't have a good picture yet.

Myth says a black hole would rip a person apart, but scientists said that

because of the particular forces exerted by an object as big as the one in M87, someone could fall into it and not be torn to pieces. But the person would never be heard from or seen again.

Black holes are "like the walls of a prison. Once you cross it, you will never be able to get out and you will never be able to communicate," said astronomer Avi Loeb, who is director of the Black Hole Initiative at Harvard but was not involved in the discovery.

The telescope data was gathered two years ago, over four days when the weather had to be just right all around the world. Completing the image was an enormous undertaking, involving an international team of scientists, supercomputers and hundreds of terabytes of data.

When scientists initially put all that data into the first picture, what they saw looked so much like what they expected they didn't believe it at first. □

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Reba McEntire: Female country stars being overlooked at ACMs

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

Kacey Musgraves made history when she won the 2019 Grammy for album of the year and swept the country music categories, but there's one award she won't win: entertainer of the year at the Academy of Country Music Awards. That's because no women are nominated for the show's top award Sunday. Instead, men make up the nominees exclusively for a second straight year — Chris Stapleton, Keith Urban, Kenny Chesney, Luke Bryan and Jason Aldean, who has held the title since 2015, will compete for the prize.

Reba McEntire, who is hosting the show at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, said it is disappointing that a female act isn't in contention for the coveted ACM award. "Carrie Underwood toured a lot this year. Kacey Musgraves is doing a wonderful job, not only

in the United States (and) North America, but she's very popular in Japan, so she's working hard touring and getting country music around the world," McEntire said in an interview with The Associated Press. "It might be too early for Kacey, but she's working hard. A lot of the girls are, so I think they're being overlooked right now."

Musgraves' critically acclaimed "Golden Hour" won album of the year and best country album at the Grammys in February. She also won best country song for "Space Cowboy" and best country solo performance for "Butterflies."

Musgraves is the sole female artist in the album of the year category at the ACM Awards. Her competition includes Stapleton's "From A Room: Volume 2," Eric Church's "Desperate Man," Dierks Bentley's "The Mountain" and Dan + Shay's self-titled release.

Bebe Rexha is the only



In this Feb. 10, 2019 file photo, Kacey Musgraves, winner of the awards for best country album for "Golden Hour", best country song for "Space Cowboy", best country solo performance for "Butterflies" and album of the year for "Golden Hour" poses at the 61st annual Grammy Awards at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

woman competing for song of the year thanks to the record-setting hit "Meant to Be," featuring Florida Georgia Line, while Maddie & Tae is the sole female act up for duo of the year. No women were nominated for songwriter of the year.

Luckily the performers at ACM Awards, airing live at 8 p.m. Eastern on CBS, include a good number of female musicians. Underwood, Brandi Carlile, Maren Morris, Kelly Clarkson, Miranda Lambert, Ashley McBryde and McEntire will sing onstage. "This Is Us" actress Chrissy Metz, who stars in the new movie "Breakthrough," will perform a song alongside Lauren Alaina, Mickey Guyton, Maddie & Tae and Underwood. Others set to perform Sunday include Blake Shelton, George Strait, Brooks & Dunn, Kane Brown, Luke Combs, Florida Georgia Line, Khalid, Little Big Town and Thomas Rhett. □

John Oliver's parody book among most 'challenged' works

By HILLEL ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Not everyone was amused by the John Oliver send-up of a picture book by the wife and daughter of Vice President Mike Pence.

"Last Week Tonight With John Oliver Presents A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo," in which the Pence's family bunny turns out to be gay, was among the books most objected to in 2018 at the country's public libraries. The best-selling parody ranked No. 2 on the list of "challenged" books compiled by the American Library Association, with some complaining about its gay-themed content and political viewpoint.

Oliver's book, credited to staff writer Jill Twiss, was a response to the Pences' "A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo" and to the family's conservative social viewpoint. The Pences themselves did not publicly object, and daughter Charlotte Pence has even said she purchased a copy of

the "Last Week Tonight" book, noting that proceeds were going to charities for AIDS and suicide prevention for LGBTQ youth.

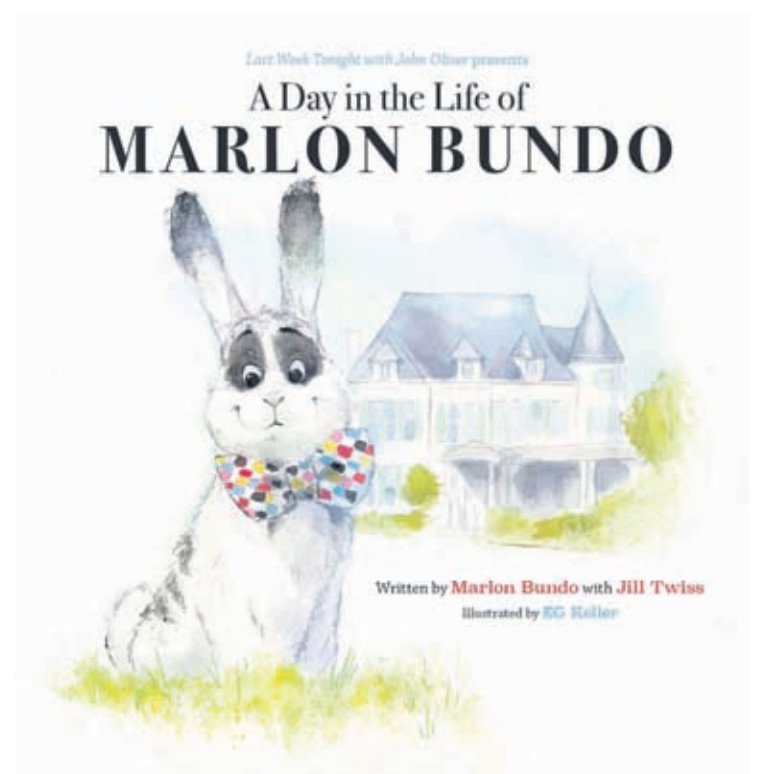
The library association announced Monday that Alex Gino's "George," a middle-grade novel about a transgender child, was No. 1 on its list. Others included Angie Thomas' best-seller about a teen girl whose friend is shot by police, "The Hate U Give" (drug use, profanity, "anti-cop" bias); and Dav Pilkey's "Captain Underpants" series (same-sex couple, "encouraging disruptive behavior").

The report also includes Raina Telgemeier's "Drama," Jay Asher's "Thirteen Reasons Why," Sherman Alexie's prize-winning "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian," Mariko and Jillian Tamaki's "This One Summer" and Judy Schachner's "Skippyjon Jones" series. Books included on the list in previous years range from "To Kill a Mockingbird" to the "Harry Potter" series.

The ALA usually lists 10 books, but included 11 this year because two tied for 10th place: Gayle E. Pitman's and Kristyna Litten's "This Day in June," and David Leviathan's "Two Boys Kissing," both cited for LGBTQIA+ content and both among those burned last October in Orange City, Iowa, by the director of a "pro-family" group called Rescue the Perishing.

Deborah Caldwell Stone, interim director of the library association's Office for Intellectual Freedom, said the protests from parents and other local residents about gay content reflected a "pushback" as "writers work to be more inclusive of underrepresented or marginalized communities."

The list is part of the association's "State of America's Libraries Report" and comes at the start of National Library Week, which begins Wednesday. The ALA defines a "challenge" as a "formal, written complaint filed with a library



This cover image released by Chronicle Books shows "Last Week Tonight With John Oliver Presents A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo," written by Marlon Bundo with Jill Twiss and illustrated by EG Keller.

Associated Press

or school requesting that materials be removed because of content or appropriateness." The list is based on news reports and on accounts submitted from

libraries, although the ALA believes many challenges go unreported. The association tracked 347 challenges last year, compared to 356 in 2017. □

A challenging exploration of humanity in 'High Life'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**

Associated Press

French filmmaker Claire Denis, one of the great living directors, has not lost her edge as she's coasted into her 70s. Her latest film, "High Life," which debuted last fall at the Toronto International Film Festival and is now making it to theaters, is as stimulating and challenging as anything she made in the 90s. Although here, she's taken us not to

post-Colonial West Africa or modern day working class France, but to the outer reaches of space to drift around an ominous black hole with Robert Pattinson and a baby, daring us to piece together how they ended up in such a precarious situation. The only thing that's immediately clear is that they are alone on this spaceship, which is hardly the most advanced-looking

rig. Instead it seems straight out of a 1970s film, and it is slowly and surely shutting down. Designed by Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson, it sets a perfectly unnerving mood, and every day Pattinson has to convince a low-tech computer that he is healthy enough and the ship is stable enough to justify systems running for another 24 hours. It's an existential chore to say the least.

Pattinson, as a character named Monte, doesn't have much dialogue to work with. But there is a world of fear and anxiety in his eyes as he tries to tend to the needs of the creaky old ship and the adorable little infant in his care, soothing her through a speaker as he tries to fix something outside the ship. He has a few flashbacks to a moment in his youth on a grey fall day with a young



This image released by A24 Films shows Robert Pattinson in a scene from "High Life."

Associated Press

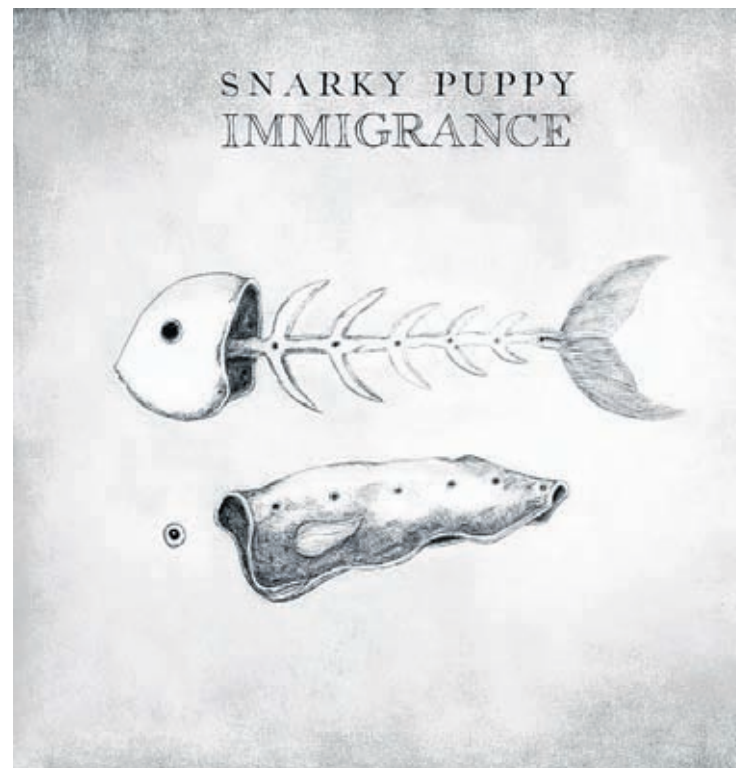
girl and a dog near a desolate pond in the woods, but it will take some time for the film to reveal what happened then and why it's relevant.

Although it is oddly peaceful and compelling watching Monte and this baby, Willow (played by Scarlett Lindsey), go through their

routine, which requires some inventiveness to deal with some of her bodily functions, eventually you start to itch for the why and the how and Denis doesn't disappoint with her patient reveals.

First, you realize, there was other crew on board, but they've all died. □

Snarky Puppy's 'Immigrance' emulates live experience



This album cover image released by GroundUP Music shows "Immigrance," a release by Snarky Puppy.

Associated Press

By **PABLO GORONDI**

Associated Press

Snarky Puppy, "Immigrance" (GroundUP Music) With musicians from all over the United States, as well as Argentina, Cana-

da and Japan, to name a few, and instruments from as far away as Egypt and Morocco, Snarky Puppy's "Immigrance" rings true to its name.

Bandleader and bassist Mi-

chael League says it's all about fluidity, motion and being "in a constant state of migration." At 19 members — including trios of drummers, guitarists and percussionists — Snarky Puppy is a band as caravan, a group that may need to start its day with a roll call.

Winner of three Grammys and numerous other distinctions, the instrumental mega-combo is also a globalist when it comes to musical styles, finding room to add a wide spectrum of world sounds to its jazz and funk foundations.

Opener "Chonks" is chock-full of funk, while another League composition, "Bigly Strictness," has a gnarly guitar and a Moog keyboard solo that briefly speeds up like a vintage video game. None of the tunes have lyrics, but guitarist Chris McQueen's "Coven" has plenty of lyricism, anchored by a horn section that frequently varies its hues as guitars and keyboards add their own emotional inputs. □

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DAVID HARBOUR | MILLA JOVOVICH
HELLBOY
MON-THU 4:50 | 7:30
FRI 4:50 | 7:30 | 10:10
SAT 2:10 | 4:50 | 7:30 | 10:10
SAT 2:10 | 4:50 | 7:30

MON-FRI 3:55 | 6:40 | 9:25
SAT-SUN 1:10 | 3:55 | 6:40 | 9:25

REGINA HALL | ISSA RAE
Little
MON-FRI 3:40 | 6:05 | 8:30
SAT-SUN 1:15 | 3:40 | 6:05 | 8:30

CHRISSEY METZ | TOPHER GRACE
BREAKTHROUGH
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 4:05 | 6:40 | 9:15
SAT-SUN 1:30 | 4:05 | 6:40 | 9:15

ZACHARY LEVI | MICHELLE BORTH
SHAZAM!
CXC
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU 5:00 | 7:50
FRI 5:00 | 7:50 | 10:40
SAT 2:10 | 5:00 | 7:50 | 10:40
SAT 2:10 | 5:00 | 7:50

MON-FRI 3:40 | 6:30 | 9:20
SAT-SUN 12:50 | 3:40 | 6:30 | 9:20

JASON CLARKE | AMY SEIMETZ
PET SEMATARY
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU & SUN 7:15 | 9:35
FRI-SAT 7:15 | 9:35 | 11:55

COLIN FARRELL | MICHAEL KEATON
DUMBO
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 4:10 | 6:35 | 9:00
SAT-SUN 1:50 | 4:10 | 6:35 | 9:00

ZACH GALIFIANAKIS | ZOE SALDANA
MISSING LINK
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 5:05
SAT-SUN 12:50 | 2:55 | 5:05

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At just 14, Marsai Martin is a Hollywood mogul in the making

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — You might have heard the story by now: That Marsai Martin pitched “Little,” a modern spin on “Big,” to Universal Pictures at age 10. It’s true, she did, but that precocious move was preceded by another, more impressive act of rebellion and a pivotal moment in putting her on the path to becoming the youngest executive producer ever: She fired her agents after the first year of “black-ish.”

The ABC show, in which she plays the Johnson’s whip-smart daughter, Diane, was on its first hiatus and Martin and her family wanted to know what opportunities there were.

“They were like, ‘You should just stick to “black-ish,” just chill, take a break,’” Martin said.

Besides, the agents explained, there weren’t any roles for a young black girl out there. But the Martins persisted and suggested creating something themselves.

“They kind of just laughed at us. They didn’t see the vision. But I think they didn’t see it because they saw what I looked like: A little black girl that no one would want to see,” Martin



This March 27, 2019 photo shows actress Marsai Martin posing in her office, Genius Productions, in Los Angeles.

said. “So, we fired them.” Four years later, it’s almost ancient history for the now 14-year-old sitting in the conference room of Genuis Productions, the company she founded, as she prepares for “Little” to hit theaters nationwide Friday.

The office space is a projection of Martin herself, with accent walls in her favorite color blue, her and her baby sister’s preferred snacks in the break area (Goldfish crackers, rice crispy treats, etc) and a PS4

in the lobby (as well as her NAACP Image Awards). Her own office is well on its way to having the Alice in Wonderland-feel she wants with “grand plants” and colorful throw pillows. There’s also a very teen-appropriate Polaroid wall, and a perfect view of the Universal sign out the window.

“It’s a creative spot for me and a place where I can express how I feel and just get my mind in a cool place where I can just come up

with anything I want,” Martin said. “I’m very grateful and doing it with my family is even better.”

After the break with the agents, “black-ish” creator Kenya Barris helped nudge Martin in the right direction, securing a meeting with his friend, producer Will Packer, who’s been behind such high-profile hits as “Girls Trip” and “Night School,” to hear her idea.

“I didn’t expect much, because, you know, I hear a lot of pitches and most of them aren’t great. I said ‘Listen, I’m sure she’s sweet. I’ll do it as a courtesy,’” Packer said. “And she comes in and she’s got this fully thought out, really coherent, cohesive narrative, with characters and themes. I was like, ‘She’s how old again?’” Her story would be about bullying and female empowerment.

“We wanted it to be as authentic as possible... even though it’s a fantasy, body-swap film,” Martin laughed. She stars as the young Jordan Sanders, a science-obsessed teen who is bullied so much in high school that she grows up to be an insufferable bully herself, as the head of a major tech company. The adult version of Jordan is played by Regina Hall, who Martin had worked with on “black-ish.” Rounding out

the cast is “Insecure’s” Issa Rae (“a creator like me”), as Jordan’s undervalued assistant.

Martin loved the whole development process and is glad that it took a few years for filming to start, allowing her to mature a little bit into who she is today. And then, this past February, something even bigger came along: Martin got a first-look deal with Universal, too.

“It was so exciting, but to be honest, I didn’t even know what it meant at the beginning,” Martin said. “I was like, ‘Oh cool! What is that? Like, OK, this seems very professional. Am I in it now? Like is this some Jordan Peele-type stuff?’”

When she realized that it meant the studio gets first dibs on anything she creates, she was thrilled.

“I was like, ‘Oh, OK! So I can create whatever I want?’ I thought that was so cool because this mind has a lot of things,” she said. “I can keep creating things that people don’t get to see often.”

She knows it’s unusual to be wielding this much creative power in Hollywood at this young age, but she also enjoys catching people off guard.

“It’s like, ‘Oh, snap, THIS girl, created this film?’ And it’s kind of shocking,” she laughed.

Her life is pretty crazy right now promoting “Little” and developing new films and television projects. She’s home-schooled with a tutor, which she prefers, and she doesn’t have any regrets about missing out on the high school experience.

“I used to be the shy kid who would barely raise her hand or speak her mind,” she said.

Even now she suffers her own share of self-consciousness.

“That’s something that I have to work on: Self-confidence and loving myself,” she said. “Your girl gets a lot of anxiety. It’s OK. It’s a learning process. I feel like a lot of kids my age get it, whether they’re in the industry or not.” □

Man wins over \$110K, breaks single-day record on ‘Jeopardy!’

Associated Press

CULVER CITY, Calif. (AP) — A 34-year-old professional sports gambler from Las Vegas won more than \$110,000 on “Jeopardy!” on Tuesday, breaking the record for single-day cash winnings on the trivia television game show.

The show says in a statement that James Holzhauer won \$110,914 during the episode. The previous episode record of \$77,000 was set by Roger Craig in 2010. Tuesday’s win was the fourth consecutive victory for Holzhauer, whose winnings total more than \$244,000. He will face two new challengers Wednesday.



This image made from video aired on “Jeopardy!” on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, and provided by Jeopardy Productions, Inc. shows James Holzhauer.

Associated Press

day. “Jeopardy!” host Alex Trebek revealed in March that he was diagnosed

with advanced pancreatic cancer but said he intends to fight the disease and keep on working. □

In a first, Bedouin women lead tours in Egypt's Sinai

By **NARIMAN EL-MOFTY**

Associated Press

ABU ZENIMA, Egypt (AP) —

Amid a stunning vista of desert mountains, a Bedouin woman, Umm Yasser, paused to point out a local plant, and she began to explain how it was used in medicine to the group of foreign tourists she was guiding.

Umm Yasser is breaking new ground among the deeply conservative Bedouin of Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. Women among the Bedouin almost never work outside the home, and even more rarely do they interact with outsiders. But Umm Yasser is one of four women from the community who for the first time are working as tour guides.

"It is against our culture, but women need jobs," the 47-year-old Umm Yasser said. "People will make fun of us, but I don't care. I'm a strong woman."

They are part of Sinai Trail, a unique project in which local Bedouin tribes came together aiming to develop their own tourism. Founded in 2015, the project has set up a 550-kilometer (330-mile) trail through the remote mountains of the peninsula, a 42-day trek through the lands of eight different tribes, each of which contributes guides. The project has been successful in bringing some income to the tribes, who often complain of being left out of the major tourism development of the southern Sinai, home to beach resorts and desert safaris.



This March 30, 2019 photo, shows the scenery on a trek led by beduin women, near Wadi Sahw, Abu Zenima, in South Sinai, Egypt.

Until now, all the project's guides were men. Ben Hoffler, the British co-founder of the Sinai Trail, felt it was not enough. "How can we be credible calling this the 'Sinai Trail' if the women aren't involved?"

But even after years of trying by Hoffler, almost all the tribes still reject women guides. Only one of the smallest, oldest and poorest tribes, the Hamada, accepted the idea.

There are some conditions. The tourists can only be women, and the tours can't go overnight. Each day before the sun sets, the group returns to the Hamada's home village in Wadi Sahu, a narrow desert valley. The organizers also urge the tourists to photograph the guides only when they are

wearing a full veil over the face that covers even the eyes with mesh.

Umm Yasser was the first to join. She said she started hiking when she was a child and knows the mountains and the valley by heart. She convinced the families of three other women to allow them to work as guides. Their tribe is a poor one, living in small concrete houses strung along the Wadi Sahu. Electricity runs no more than five hours a night and there is no running water. It is isolated deep in the mountains of south Sinai, far from the tourism centers in Sinai along the Red Sea coast or near the famed Saint Catherine's Monastery. The men often leave the village to find work, either at resorts or in mines further south.

"We need money to help support our families for basic necessities," Umm Yasser said. "We need blankets, clothes for the children, washing machines, fridges, books for school."

The Sinai Trail came together in some of the hardest years for tourism. It was launched as an Islamic State group-linked insurgency intensified in the northern part of Sinai and a year after a Russian passenger plane crashed, killing all 224 passengers on board in a likely militant bombing.

Associated Press

The violence has stayed far from southern Sinai, where tourist resorts are located — but the industry has had to push hard to win tourists back.

On a recent tour joined by the Associated Press, 16 female tourists — from Korea, New Zealand, Europe, Lebanon and Egypt — were led by Umm Yasser and the other three women guides, Umm Soliman, Aicha, and Selima, through the rugged landscape in and around Wadi Sahu.

"I think south Sinai is safe especially when you are in the care of Bedouins. ... This is where I feel at home. Every corner there is scenery and another beautiful view," said Marion Salweger, a 68-year-old Dutch woman who travels to southern Sinai every year alone to escape the winters

in Holland. During the two-day tour, the group hiked across an endlessly broad landscape of mountain peaks and valleys of dry riverbeds. While male Bedouin guides range far from home, the women tend to move closer, with an exceptionally rich knowledge of the surrounding mountains. The guides talked about the local plants and herbs, the history and legends of the area and pointed out the borders of the area's tribes.

In the evening, the group returned to the Hamada tribe's village. The women sat on the floor of Umm Yasser's home and the tourists asked the guide about life in the village, marriage and divorce.

Umm Yasser is skeptical other Bedouin women will join her as a guide or in working in general any time soon. But, she said, "There is no shame in working. This is what I believe in, and it makes me strong."

Some attitudes are changing. Mohammed Salman, an elderly man from the Aligat tribe, said he thought the guides project was a great step for women. "If a woman wants to work, she should be able to have the right to," he said. "Many men say no, a woman's place is at home. But I'm sick of this ideology. She's a human being."

"This trip is going down in history and will be talked about," said Julie Paterson, a facilitator for Sinai Trail who often works with Bedouin women. "It might also go into Bedouin oral history." □



In this March 30, 2019 photo, Umm Yasser, the first Bedouin female guide from the Hamada tribe, looks at Umm Soliman as she plays the flute, near Wadi Sahw, Abu Zenima, in South Sinai, Egypt.

Associated Press



In this March 29, 2019 photo, tourists trek in the mountains near Wadi Sahw, Abu Zenima, in South Sinai, Egypt.

Associated Press